

the chronicle

The happy tail of bulldog Vinnie's Facebook fame

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'Uncle Albert' look gets the chop for charity fund-razer

– see page 7



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Takeaway plea on old post office

A FORMER post office in Sedgley will be brought back to life as a Chinese takeaway under new plans which are expected to be approved next month.

The scheme to revamp the post office in Dudley Street, Sedgley, would create three jobs and help inject new life into the town, a report says.

The post office moved in August last year to a redundant electrical substation next door which bosses said was better suited to its needs.

But one resident has objected to the plans to turn the old post office site into a takeaway raising concerns about possible smells and noise.

Plans for the overhaul are set to go before Dudley Council's planning committee for consideration at a meeting on April 4.

Planning officials have recommended the scheme is given approval subject to a number of conditions.

Letters notifying nearby residents of the plans have been sent to 32 properties in the area.

Repair hope for key building

PLANS to restore a historic building in Dudley town centre have been submitted.

Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative, which manages the restoration of key old buildings, hopes to do work at the Holloway Hall and Chambers.

If approved, the proposals will mean outside repairs to the Priory Road building.

A modern internal refurbishment to create new business units and office space inside will also take place.

The public sector package of funding, which will help to deliver this and many other Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative projects, comes from a variety of sources.

These include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Growth Points Fund, English Heritage and also Dudley Council.

It is estimated that funding of up to £2.4 million could be available for grant-aiding projects within the town centre and an additional £500,000 from the European Regional Development Fund is also being sought.

Clubs a click away

THE latest community information on clubs and events within Dudley is now just a mouse click away thanks to the launch of a new website.

A directory has been launched at www.dudleyci.co.uk by staff from Dudley libraries.

Horse in canal fall

A STRAY horse was rescued by firefighters after falling into the Dudley Canal at Parkhead locks near Holly Hall Road, Holly Hall. Firefighters had to tie ropes around the animal to pull it out of the water on Monday.



Vicky Wood – hoping to impress the judges with her singing

Vicky on song for competition

A SINGER from Netherton is hoping to reach for the stars after being told she has made it through to the live shows of a national competition.

Sixth-form student Vicky Wood, aged 16, is dreaming of taking audiences by storm as part of the Britain Does Variety show next month.

Singing lessons

The teenager, of Abingdon Road, has already appeared in front of a panel of judges who put her through to the live show at the Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, on April 16.

Vicky, who attends Heathfield Foundation Technology College, in Cradley Heath, said: "I've been having lessons with my singing tutor." Anyone interested in tickets price at £9 is asked to call Vicky's mother Shelia on 01384 634093.

Fresh bid for manor homes

A SCHEME to build new homes within the grounds of a listed Georgian manor house near Stourbridge were being resubmitted by developers this week.

The proposals for 14 properties on the land around Grade II-listed Wordsley Manor were halted by planners earlier this year amid concerns over wildlife conservation on the site.

Hagley-based developer Selbourne Homes said on

Monday it had been in talks with Dudley Council and the Firmstone family, who own the house, to draw up a new strategy.

It is hoped the revised scheme will appease the authority and conservation group Natural England.

If given the go-ahead the development would fund £400,000 of renovations to the dilapidated house which has been owned by the family for 160 years.

LORRY SHED ITS STOLEN METAL

A GANG was foiled after a stolen lorry, loaded with a £64,000 haul of metal taken moments earlier during a raid on a Halesowen factory, shed part of its load.

The lorry was stopped by police after some of the stolen steel, copper and brass fell off as it was being driven away from Warley Polishing in James Scott Road, Cradley, where the metal doors had been forced and a hole smashed in the wall.

Two men fled from the cab and ran off. But one of them, Andrew Guest, was caught after being cornered by officers in a nearby street, Wolverhampton Crown Court was on Monday.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said the lorry, worth £20,000, had been taken from J&S Metal Finishers of Shaw Road Industrial Estate, Dudley.

Steel posts valued at £2,000 were also stolen and £2,000 damage caused as the gang broke in after forcing the rear door of neighbouring Scott Steel Services

and taking scrap metal. Mr Searle told how the thieves then drove the truck to Warley Polishing and used a fork lift truck found to load stolen sheet metal.

"As a result of the weight and insecure way it had been placed on the vehicle part of the load spilled into the road," said Mr Searle.

"A passing police patrol saw this and two men ran off when the lorry was stopped."

More than £600 damage was caused to the Warley Polishing factory.

Temptation

The lorry rolled down a hill into an embankment after being abandoned by the thieves, who did not have time to apply the brakes before fleeing.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said that Guest, aged 31, of Merryfield Road, Russells Hall, Dudley, had a £30-a-day heroin habit.

"He was offered a large amount of money to act as look-out and the temptation was too great, so he foolishly took part," said Mr Garcha.

Guest, who had previous convictions for shoplifting and dishonesty, admitted burglary and was jailed for two years and six months.



Mark Moran, from The Mayhem Theatre company with the awards

Mayhem gets six appeal at festival

MOVE over Colin Firth – A Halesowen theatre group has picked up six awards of its own.

Mayhem Theatre group won six out of 11 awards at the Worcestershire heat of the All-England Theatre festival.

The group entered two plays, a version of Harold Pinter's Silence, and their very own, Eurovision-style entry Good Evening Sarajevo.

Mark Moran, who wrote Good Evening Sarajevo, said: "We've entered it for years, and if we win one trophy it's good, but to win six is amazing."

Dave Francis won Best Actor for his role in Silence, while Good Evening Sarajevo picked up five awards, Best Play, Best Comedy, Best Overall, while George Clayton, aged 16, won Best Youth Actor.

The play also won Best

Songs, which were written by Mr Moran and Ian Allarton.

The awards had an extra-special touch, as they entered under the name Darque Mayhem in memory of Chris Darque, a member of the group who passed away two years ago.

Mr Moran, who owns Spex Maniax in Halesowen, said: "We entered under that name for Chris so we're really happy to have his name on five trophies."

Sessions

The group now go on to the quarter finals, which they will contest with six other counties from around the Midlands.

The quarter finals will take place at Courtyard Theatre in Hereford on April 16, and will be split into two sessions of three 50 minute plays each.

Tickets will cost £6 each. For more information visit www.courtyard.org.uk.

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Wheelchair hire fee for disabled at Merry Hill

HIRE charges are being introduced for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Retail giant Westfield, which owns the Black Country centre, says the charges are "essential" to maintain the service, which was previously free.

An annual registration fee of £10 is being introduced from April 1 as well as daily charges introduced for different wheelchairs, scooters and pushchairs. The charge for the hire of pushchairs is £2 per day.

There will also be the same charge for the hire of mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs each time. Unregistered users will

be charged a one-off hire fee of £3 for electric wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs.

Manual wheelchairs can be hired for £1 for registered users while non-registered users will be charged £3.

Dudley Council's disability champion Councillor Colin Banks today said: "I would have thought with the money they are making it wasn't needed. It is just another charge for people during these tough times."

"I don't know whether they have thought about this commercially because if people do not want to pay and don't go, it isn't just them. It might be the whole family."

Westfield Merry Hill spokeswoman Kelly Reed said: "Merry Hill will start charging for use of Shopmobility equipment from Monday, April 4."

"These charges are essential for the on-going provision of the service, the maintenance of the Merry Hill Shopmobility fleet and in order to improve the service. We have striven to keep the Shopmobility charges as low as possible to minimise the impact."

Mobility scooter user Trevor Stuart, of Shenstone Close, Bromsgrove, said: "It just seemed a big jump from free to these charges which are quite high if you only go there once or twice a year."

£10m boilers deal

A NEW £10 million deal has been struck for gas services to around 23,000 council properties within Dudley.

Officials from Dudley Council have signed contracts with family-run company PH Jones for the next three years.

The Cheshire-based firm won the lucrative contract which starts next month.

Council chiefs say residents will have a "seam-

less" change from energy company E.on which concludes its contract this month.

PH Jones will be responsible for providing maintenance, servicing and installations. Workers employed under the previous contract will continue with PH Jones. The only differences would be new uniforms, vans and number - 01384 286086.

Bulldog Vinnie's Facebook fame



Vinnie the British bulldog, looking at his Facebook site with Liam Smith

BULLDOG Vinnie Stevenson has a growing fan club on his own social networking "page" - attracting fans from all over the world.

Vinnie's canine capers are now updated regularly on his Facebook page by Liam Smith, 20-year-old stepson of his owner Roger Stevenson, of Clent View Road, Norton, Stourbridge - to be lapped up by his growing army of fans.

The one-year-old British bulldog, whose kennel name is Bulltowers Hercules, barks excitedly, as he looks at the responses from his 106 Facebook friends.

Latest entries on Vinnie's Facebook "wall" - which shows what he has been up to lately - include a photograph and video of him wolfing down his first birthday cake, made from corned beef with a candle on top.

Roger Stevenson, aged 64, and his wife Tricha, 49, purchased Vinnie from his birthplace in Cannock.

To find Vinnie see Vinnie Stevenson (Bulltowers Hercules) on Facebook.

Tenants in solar power trials

SOLAR panels will be fitted to the roofs of council homes in Dudley at a cost of £45,000 - which will be recouped over the next eight years.

The pilot scheme, which will enable council house tenants to get free electricity, is being rolled out this week.

The scheme will see a number of solar panels added to the roofs of three two-storey blocks of flats, each with four flats for mature tenants aged over 40, in Jockey Fields, Upper Gornal.

If it is deemed a success it could be expanded to other parts of Dudley borough.

Daylight

The trial will provide some free electricity to the tenants during daylight hours, amounting to roughly one free month of electricity per year.

Any additional electricity generated which tenants do not use will be exported to the national grid.

Council chiefs say they have picked the flats in Jockey Fields as they are "ideal" with south-facing roofs, which are relatively unshaded, at the rear.

The panels need daylight to produce electricity rather than sunlight so council chiefs say they will always provide a benefit.

The effectiveness of the scheme will be monitored this summer and if successful, it is likely the scheme will be rolled out to larger council-run schemes.

Time traveller's show

THE world of science fiction and Doctor Who is set to descend on the Black Country with a new exhibition this spring.

Out of this Universe starts on April 6 at The Public in West Bromwich

and will feature props, models, costumes, toys and memorabilia from hit productions such as Doctor Who and Star Wars.

Meanwhile, interactive machines, models of Daleks, Wall-E, R2D2 and a

Tardis, from the collection of Nigel Parkes, will be on display at the New Street arts centre until June 26.

During the length of the exhibition a number of specially-themed family workshops will also be held.

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MEP backs pair in golly folly row

Hoping for clear success



Front, Antiques Roadshow host Mark Hill and Emer Gunter. Back from left, Ciara Gunter, Michael Gunter, organiser Janet Hendry, and Liadan Gunter

ANTIQUES Roadshow host Mark Hill chose Dudley for the launch of his new book celebrating the Scottish glass-making industry.

The launch of the book, called Caitheann Glass: Loch, Heather and Peat, took place at the same time as a glass exhibition in honour of the 50th anniversary of Scottish company Caitheann Glass. The exhibition runs at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Compton Drive, Kingswin-

ford, until April 24.

The show centres on the work of Domhnall O'Broin, the company's first designer, and is accompanied by a catalogue published by Mr Hill.

Family of Mr O'Broin, who now live in St Louis, Missouri, including his daughter Emer Gunter also attended the book launch after helping Mr Hill to write it by providing family history stories and information passed down through the generations.

A TORY MEP is among hundreds of people who have sent messages of support to a Sedgley couple who quit the Conservative party in a row over a golly doll.

Roger Helmer, MEP for the East Midlands, said he was "exasperated" at his party's stance against Bill Etheridge and his wife, Star. Mr Helmer said Prime Minister David Cameron has spoken out against political correctness.

Mr Etheridge said he will now stand as a UKIP candidate in the May Dudley Council elections in opposition to the Conservatives, who suspended him and his wife after they posed with a golly doll on their Facebook site.

The couple, of Tipton Road, Sedgley, who were both due to stand as Tory candidates in Dudley, resigned from the Conservatives after being told they were being suspended for 30 days because their actions might "bring the party into disrepute".

Represent

Mr Etheridge, aged 41, has now joined UKIP and will stand for that party in the Sedgley ward, currently held by former borough Conservatives' leader Councillor David Caunt.

Mr Helmer, speaking from Brussels, said: "I share Mr Etheridge's exasperation with political correctness and I am very concerned that we have almost got the 'thought police'."

"There are dolls that represent white people and dolls that represent black people. A golly is only a caricature, in



Star and Bill Etheridge

the same way that a Cabbage Patch Doll is a caricature.

"I greatly regret that the Etheridges were suspended and that the Conservative party is taking that aggressive, politically correct line," Mr Helmer added.

Mr Etheridge said: "We have had literally hundreds of comments from people, including many Tories, supporting us - and only a very few who were against."

Call over private fostering

PARENTS who organise private fostering arrangements for their children in Dudley are being reminded to notify the council.

Private fostering is when someone, not a close relative, cares for another person's child for more than 28 days.

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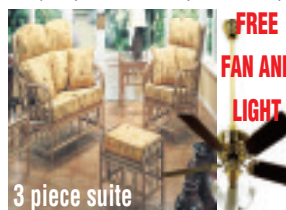
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Fluffy is back with owner Karen Walker after she saw him on Facebook

FLUFFY the cat has been reunited with his owner after she spotted him on Facebook - 15 months after he vanished from his home.

When Fluffy went missing, his owner Karen Walker feared she had lost him forever.

So she was stunned when she spotted a picture of him on a friend's Facebook page.

Her pet had made it almost two miles away from Karen's home in Wollaston, Stourbridge, to Oldswinford

where he was taken in as a stray by a family who then handed him over to the Stourbridge Cats' Protection League for permanent rehoming.

Charity volunteer Hayley Morgan put his picture on Facebook to find him a home, and the picture was spotted by her friend Karen. She ran to Hayley's house clutching a photo of Fluffy, and pet and owner were reunited.

Mother-of-two Karen, from Foster Place, said "One day he went out the cat flap and never came back."

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Car crashes into front of town offices

A CAR smashed into the front of a solicitors' office, leading to the closure of a busy road in Stourbridge.

The driver of a BMW 320 coupe, which hit the Sanders and Co building, was arrested at the scene. Officers were called to Hagley Road just after at 8.30pm on Tuesday, March 22.

The front door and frame was smashed and there was damage to paintwork at the front of the building next to Butterfingers sandwich bar. The driver escaped from the wreckage uninjured.

West Midlands Police said the road had to be closed following the crash and structural engineers were sent to the scene.

The out-of-town carriageway re-opened after around 45 minutes and the other side reopened when the car was recovered by 10pm.

Hallway

Senior partner at the solicitors practice Michael Davies said: "There had been blocks set up in the road when I arrived after 10pm but I was able to get through and down to the premises."

"It has caused a lot of damage to the door and front of the building. There was a lot of debris, especially in the doorway and hallway so it was thought best to let structural engineers take a look at the building."

The business was open as normal the following day and workers were removing the damaged door as staff assessed the cost of repairs.

Wards to get name change

PROPOSALS to change the names of two electoral wards in Dudley borough have been approved by councillors after a long-running campaign.

Residents and councillors have called for the changes to be made to better reflect the areas the wards cover.

The Cradley and Foxcote ward will be renamed Cradley and Wollescote.

Meanwhile, Lye and Wollescote will become Lye and Stourbridge North.

At an extraordinary meeting of the full council last week councillors agreed to the changes.

The names will come into effect before the local elections this May.

Dudley Council chief executive John Polychronakis said: "The proposed changes will give a better reflection of how the wards are made up and where they sit in the borough."

Arrest outside cannabis factory

A DRUG addict was seen leaving a Stourbridge cannabis factory by police watching the premises, a court heard.

Thalib Hussain, aged 30, was arrested and taken back in handcuffs into the building at Leander Road, Lye, prosecutor Mrs Kanwal Juss told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

He was made to sit on the sill of a bay window while officers scoured the building, finding 211 cannabis plants.

Mrs Juss said: "When he stood up a large cling film wrap was discovered where he had been seated. Inside was heroin with a street value of £151."

Police also found £1,500 cash in a cereal box at his home but the defendant insisted that this belonged to his wife.

Hussain, from Compton Road, Tipton, had previous convictions for drug offences including a four-year jail sentence for attempted trafficking in Denmark.

He was arrested for possessing the heroin in Lye on November 6, 2009 but failed to answer bail and was only traced in July last year.

Mr Ekwal Tiwana, defending, said: "He is a habitual heroin user."

Hussain admitted possession of heroin and was given a six-month community order with a drug rehabilitation requirement.

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Accused motorist is bailed

AMAN has been released on police bail after being charged with drink-driving and taking a car without permission.

The 27-year-old was stopped and questioned by police as he drove a Vauxhall Corsa along the Northway, Sedgley, at around 9.45pm on Saturday.

He will appear at Dudley Magistrates Court on April 5 to face charges of drink-driving, taking a car without permission, driving without insurance and driving without a licence.

Sgt Rob Simpson, from the Sedgley and Gornal neighbourhood police team, said: "We are regularly patrolling the areas of Sedgley and Gornal, particularly of a weekend, in order to ensure that people remain safe and comply with the law."

He added that police would prosecute anyone allegedly caught committing a drink-drive offence.

Beauty title date is set

THE winner of a regional beauty contest will be announced early next month.

Voting in the Miss Black Country 2011 competition is now closed.

The winner will be crowned on April 9 at Wolverhampton Racecourse.

The contest winner will also go through to compete in the Miss England and Miss World competitions.

Editor Bronwen is the talk of the papers for civic win

Full list of award winners

Duncan Edwards Award for Sport

SHAHZADA Saleem, aged 45, who owns Sedgley-based Beacon Taxis and lives in Ploverdale Crescent, Kingswinford, last July made a heavyweight return to the Asian sport of "stone lifting" beating the world record he set 14 years earlier.

He lifted a stone, weighted with lead, weighing 210kg – 10kg more than his 1996 record – in front of 10,000 people in Manchester.

Shahzada said: "I've got lots of gold medals but this civic award is worth more to me than all of them."

Cedric Hardwicke Award for Arts

Lindsay Newton, aged 62, of Cot Lane, Kingswinford, is chairman of Dudley Arts Council and was, for 10 years, head of development of children's services for Dudley Council.

He had previously been a music teacher and was head of the arts faculty at Coseley School. His services to the arts include gaining funding for Dormston Theatre



Back from left, Anne Penn, Barbara Perks, Alan Hackett, Claire Starmer-Jones, Lindsay Newton, David Harcourt and Elsie Maybury. Front, Shahzada Saleem, Mayoress Hilary Miller, Mayor Peter Miller, Joanne Gresswell and Bronwen Hall.

and Arts Centre in Sedgley.

Frank Foley Award for Community Spirit

David Harcourt, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, has spearheaded Stourbridge's successes in winning a silver, two silver gilt and three gold awards in the Heart of England region of Britain in Bloom.

He is manager of Waitrose supermarket in Stourbridge and organises the town's annual carnival.

Thomas Attwood Award for Education

Anne Penn, aged 59, headteacher for 27 years at St James's Church of England Primary School,

in Wollaston, Stourbridge, will retire in July after a total of 38 years as a teacher.

She was previously deputy head at Quarry Bank Middle School and started her career at The Brook Primary in Wordsley.

Miss Penn, who lives in Wollaston, is the longest serving headteacher in the borough.

She said: "I was speechless when I heard I had won this award."

Special Project Award

Claire Starmer-Jones, aged 41, of Bridgnorth Road, Wolverhampton, led the Brierley Hill Pony Trail project last year, which saw a total of 30

decorated fibre glass horses placed at various points along the roads of the town.

Mrs Starmer-Jones is arts development officer for Dudley Performing Arts and organised the pony trail with the Brierley Hill Arts and Culture Group, encouraging local schools, colleges and individuals to decorate the fibre glass models to brighten up a route around the town.

"We worked with local artists, who went into the organisations to guide them as they painted or decorated the ponies with mosaic or, in one case, little mirrors," she said.

Mayor's Award
Bronwen Hall, co-ordinator of the Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine for the last four years.

Besides co-ordinating the 10 volunteers she acts as editor, deciding what news to feature on the CDs that are sent to 260 blind or partially sighted listeners.

Mrs Hall, who lives in Kidderminster, said she was glad to be working at the talking newspaper after a career change from librarian – and to be based in Stourbridge, where she was educated at Gigmill Primary and the former Stourbridge Girls High.

THE WOMAN who leads a "talking" newspaper and magazine that brings "light to a dark tunnel" for 260 blind and partially-sighted people clinched a major Dudley civic award, thanks to an online vote by the people of the borough.

Almost 600 votes were cast for the four people and organisations nominated for the Mayor's Award. And the winner was Bronwen Hall, coordinator of the Stourbridge-based Black Country Talking Newspaper and Magazine.

Five other Civic Awards were also presented on Tuesday, March 22.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller handed them out for sport, the arts, community spirit, education and a "special project".

Mrs Hall, of Kidderminster, coordinates the 10 volunteers who work for the talking newspaper, which provides an audio news and information service for people with sight loss.

Founder

The newspaper is based at the Pocklington Resource Centre, in Oldswinford. One of its listeners commented: "You bring some light to a dark tunnel."

Councillor Miller had nominated Mrs Hall as well as Asima Khalid, founder of Apni Zoroorat,

a community organisation in Lye, Pat Randle, who launched the St Andrew's Residents Trust (StART) in Netherton, and Kingswinford-based Chatback Productions, which involves teenagers in foster care making films about the issues that affect them.

The Duncan Edwards award for sport went to Shahzada Saleem, from Kingswinford.

The Cedric Hardwicke award for arts, was won by Lindsay Newton, of



Bronwen Hall receiving her award from the Mayor, Councillor Peter Miller

Kingswinford, chairman of Dudley Arts Council. The Frank Foley award for community spirit went to David Harcourt, driving force behind the annual Stourbridge in Bloom bid.

The Thomas Attwood award for education winner was Anne Penn, head at St James's Church of England Primary School, Wollaston.

The special project award went to Claire Starmer-Jones, development officer for Dudley Performing Arts.

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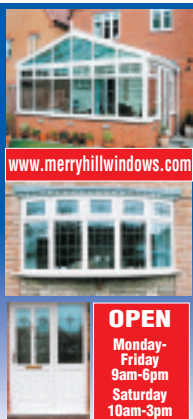
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COMPETITION

thechronicle

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Tasty offer to get your teeth into

BBC Gardeners' World Live and the BBC Good Food Show Summer are looking set to be one of the best days out for this summer!

The shows will be playing host to some of the country's leading experts including Monty Don, the returning presenter of Gardeners' World, Alan Titchmarsh, James Martin, Rachel Allen, John Torode, Gregg Wallace and many more!

And the organisers have teamed up with the Chronicles to offer 14 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the two shows.

Highlights

Grow your way to five-a-day!

Nothing tastes as good as fruit and veg picked fresh from your garden, so whether you've got an allotment or just a window box BBC Gardener's World Live is the place to learn directly from some of the country's most knowledgeable gardeners. Top experts from the BBC series will be on hand to offer advice and you can buy all the seeds, plants and produce you need, to start your own kitchen garden too.

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Aged 5-16: Sat-Sun - Free
* Up to two children per paying adult

£1.75 booking fee per ticket applies
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James Martin will be at the show to rustle up some culinary masterpieces

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets answer the following question.

Who is the returning presenter of Gardeners' World?

Send your entries to Food/Garden Show Competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, April 7.

Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. All tickets are general admission excluding Saturday, June 18. Tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Ticket terms and conditions apply.

Stray ponies bed down at hospital

PEOPLE have been warning for months they are an accident waiting to happen.

And three of the dozens of stray horses roaming the Dudley borough have turned up outside the accident and emergency unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

One patient who needed her hand x-rayed delayed going in because she was worried about the ponies and started phoning the RSPCA, police and Dudley Council for help.

Others, who felt sorry for the animals, fed them apples. Anxious parents ushered their children away as they tried to pet them on March 22.

"I saw one car drive straight at them and I shouted at the driver to slow down because the horses were spooked," said Melanie Davies, a health and safety consultant, of Collins Close, Quinton.

"All three ponies looked thin and were not in good condition and one had an injury to his back leg."

"I hurt my hand a few weeks ago and arrived to get it x-rayed but I spent ages phoning the RSPCA, the police and the council before I went in."

"I feel irate because I gather these horses are wandering around all the time but the RSPCA, council and police will not do anything."

"Do we have to wait for



A pony takes a break outside A&E at Russells Hall Hospital

a child to be hurt or an animal involved in a serious accident for something to be done?"

Councillor Steve Waltho, who is also a governor of Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "The problem of stray horses is reaching farcical proportions."

"I was out for a social drink in Wordsley on Sunday and saw six horses that had been

locked into the grounds of The Mere education centre."

"I raised the problem at the select committee on the environment on Monday night."

John Millar, director of urban environment at Dudley Council, said: "Extensive work is ongoing behind the scenes and we have been working closely with the police to deal with the strays."

Sporting chance

MORE THAN 300 students arrived at Stourbridge's Old Swinford Hospital school to celebrate a festival of sports.

The state boarding school was the venue for the event which put students' sporting skills to the test.

Pupils had the chance to compete alongside 11 schools from across the country in sports ranging from netball to football.

Many of the events made use of the school's new sports facilities including the all-weather pitches. An awards ceremony was held at the end of the day in the Foley Centre.

Tenants get say

COUNCIL house tenants in Dudley are being urged to sign up to have their say on how services are run.

The council is recruiting tenant members for its five area housing panels - Brierley Hill, Dudley, Halesowen, North Dudley and Stourbridge.

The panels meet regularly, usually every other month, to discuss housing issues. Anyone interested in being a panel member should call 01384 815168 or email participation@dudley.gov.uk

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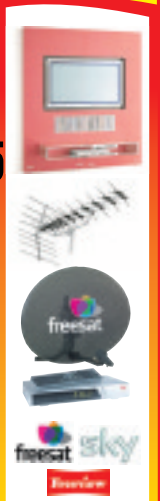
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Honour to chain strike heroine

BLACK Country artist Luke Perry is starting work on a permanent memorial to women chainmakers in the town where they won an historic strike more than a century ago.

The £25,000 memorial will honour union leader Mary Macarthur, who led the chainmakers' strikes in Cradley Heath in 1910.

Her campaigning helped the women win a famous victory, forcing employers into a pay rise following a 10-week strike and laying the foundations for the minimum wage.

Mr Perry was commissioned for the landmark at the last meeting of the Mary Macarthur Community Group, part of Cradley Heath Action Forum.

The artwork, when finished, will take pride of place in Mary Macarthur Gardens, off Sydney Road and High Street.

Family

It will stand on the site of a mound where Mary addressed strikers, once the site of the Workers Institute. The funding has been provided by Sandwell Council through cash given by developers working on projects in the area.

Mr Perry said: "Chainmaking has been in my family for a couple of hundred years and so it is really important for me, my family and the local area to get this right."

Mr Perry will also visit nearby schools to raise pupils' awareness of the project and also to talk to experts, historians and people in the industry.

Mr Perry is the artist behind a £50,000 sculpture outside Tesco Extra in Cradley Heath. He has also co-presented a Channel 4 documentary series called Titanic: The Mission.

Honorary Alderman Margaret James, who chairs the action forum, said: "We are very pleased to have chosen Luke for this memorial to mark the chainmakers and Mary Macarthur."

Fund-razer for 'Uncle Albert'



Close cut – Des Weaver has his beard shaved off for charity by Debbi Perks

A PENSIONER had the beard he cultivated for 14 months shaved off for two good causes.

With his facial hair reaching 10 inches long, Des Weaver, aged 69, said he endured plenty of comparisons with Only Fools and Horses character Uncle Albert during his charity drive.

However, the whiskers were finally removed at Esquire hairdressers in Beet Street, Rowley Regis. The dad-of-four, from The Mount, Cradley Heath, said: "I'm actually sad to see them go."

"So many people have come up to me to have a laugh and a joke about it and what I am doing. I had great fun growing the beard. People didn't believe I'd only been growing it for 14 months."

Mr Weaver hopes to raise £1,000 to be split between Birmingham Children's Hospital and the British Lung Foundation. He struck upon the idea when a friend offered him cash to get rid of the beard.

Anyone who wants to make a donation should call 0121 559 3396.



Like Uncle Albert – before the cut

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£510 bill on waste dumping

A BLACK Country man who gave a scrap metal dealer £50 to clear rubbish from outside a house ended up paying £510 after the waste was dumped at a disused pub.

Abid Ijaz, aged 38, of Caroline Street, Dudley, was refitting his parents' kitchen when the man offered to take the old units, doors and timber. It was found piled up in the car park at the old Dry Dock, Windmill End, Netherton.

Ijaz told Dudley Magistrates Court, he "gen-

uinely believed" the rubbish would be disposed of properly on June 1. Miss Neelam Bangar, prosecuting, said owners of the pub site paid for the waste to be removed. Ijaz, unemployed, said he arranged for a skip but the one dropped off was too small so had to be taken back.

He admitted failing to take measures to secure the authorised transfer of household waste. Ijaz was fined £200 and told to pay £295 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

thechronicle

Beer can man 'forgot' about fixed penalty

Masterclass day for rising stars

ARTISTIC pupils in Stourbridge were treated to a day of violin, piano and creative writing masterclasses by three professional musicians and writers. International concert pianist Margaret Fingerhut was joined by novelist Jessica Duchan and violinist Bradley Creswick for the workshops at Old Swinford Hospital School in Heath Lane, Stourbridge.

Enjoyed

The trio also put on an evening Hungarian Dances concert, based on the novel of the same name by Mrs Duchan.

The novelist extracts from the book accompanied by the musicians.

The school's director of music Tony Bridgewater said the pupils had enjoyed the visit immensely.



Old Swinford pupils with musician Bradley Creswick

CRUSHING a beer can and placing it on a wall has cost a Black Country man £165 after he was taken to court.

John Webb, of Buckingham Road, Rowley Regis, disposed of the can in Hagley Road, Halesowen, near the town's social club.

The 21-year-old claims he was going to pick it up later and, though he says the fine is "harsh", said he was willing to accept the punishment.

He was initially issued a £75 fixed penalty notice but, having failed to pay, now faces paying more than twice that including fines and legal costs.

He was seen by a passing Sgt Martin Hall of Halesowen Police, who explained it was an offence to drop litter and issued him with a fixed penalty notice, said Miss Neelam Bangar, prosecuting on behalf of Dudley Council at Dudley Magistrates Court last week.

Webb, who is unemployed and lives with his mother, admitted throwing down or leaving litter.

He said: "I just completely forgot about the fixed penalty notice to be honest."

He was fined £75, and ordered to pay £75 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Septic shock death

A RETIRED joiner of 77 from Gornal Wood died in hospital of septic shock, an inquest heard. Ivan Cartwright, of Prospect Road was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, with a stomach illness and died on January 5. Pathologist Dr Sixto Batitang said there had been evidence of asbestos in his body but it had not contributed. Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of natural causes.

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thechronicle

Love still burns as diamonds really are forever



Samuel and Betty Cox of Kingswinford



Samuel and Betty on their Big Day

‘There’s never been anyone else for me’

Sparkling marriages prove double delight

DIAMONDS are forever and that is certainly the case for two couples in Dudley who have celebrated 60 years of married bliss.

Samuel and Betty Cox, from Kingswinford, and Jean and Horace Smith, of Dudley have marked their diamond wedding anniversaries.

Both couples were married on the same day but at different churches in 1951. Childhood sweethearts Mr and Mrs Cox first met when they were 14 and, now aged 82, have been by each other's side ever since.

The couple were pupils at Tiled House Lane senior school in Pensnett when they caught each other's eye.

‘We’ve been together ever since – there has never been anyone else for me,’ said

Mrs Cox. They were married at St Mark's Church in Pensnett on March 17 1951. They have a son, Steven, 53, two grandchildren, Andrew 28 and Stuart 24 and three-year-old great-granddaughter Danielle.

Mr Cox, an engineer, ran his own company called Fabrications for 30 years while Mrs Cox worked in social services at Dudley Council.

Mrs Cox said the secret to a long and happy marriage was to never go to bed on an argument.

Friends

Meanwhile, a chance mee-ting at a mutual friend's wedding led to 60 years of happy marriage for Mr and Mrs Smith.

They were at Cradley Heath Labour Club when they got talking.

They had never met – despite having

some of the same friends – and immediately ‘hit it off’.

He walked her home and three years later they were married at St Peter's Church in Cradley.

Mr Smith, 87, said: ‘I never expected when I first spoke to her that it would last this long. It's all about give and take.’

Mr Smith spent five years in the armed services, serving in Hong Kong and France, before leaving in 1947 and becoming an engineer.

He worked at Burton, Delingpole and Co in Old Hill for 35 years, while his wife, now 80, packed chocolates at Cadbury's in Bourneville.

They now have two sons, Paul and Martin, three grandsons and one granddaughter.



The couple on their wedding day

I never expected for it to last this long ...



Jean and Horace Smith of Dudley

£500,000 improvements for Metro

A £500,000 investment will see upgrades to CCTV, public address systems and customer help-points on the Midland Metro.

Announcements should be clearer with an improved public address system as well as there being new help point services on trams and in stations.

The firm is also investing in a new CCTV control system that will allow security staff to manoeuvre cameras from the control room. Midland Metro manager Fred

Roberts told a meeting at Sandwell Council House: ‘This upgrade is due to be commissioned in early April and will greatly improve the communication systems on the tram system.’

Temporary

The upgrade will be rolled out throughout April so passengers should see very little disruption to services, security and safety on the trams and at stations. Mr Roberts added this year the company also plans to upgrade the systems which

monitor the voltage to high level overhead lines.

In a separate £400,000 programme, Midland Metro will also be carrying out major engineering works between April 17 to 20 which will result in the temporary closure of the line between Wolverhampton St George's and Wednesbury Parkway. During the works, passengers who need to travel between Wolverhampton St George's and Wednesbury Parkway can use Midland Metro tickets on the 79 and 126 National Express bus services

Party time as Marjorie marks 101st birthday

A FORMER resident of Norton, Stourbridge, has celebrated her 101st birthday.

Mrs Marjorie Ball who lived in Whittington Road for 17 years, was given a party at the nursing home just outside Gravesend, Kent, where she has lived for several months.

Her son David, who lives in Bridgnorth, said: "Nearly 20 family members and nursing staff arranged the party."

Care

"My mother used to live with my brother, John but was moved to a nursing home after a setback in her health requiring more care," he added.

Leicester-born, Mrs Ball is a former attendant at St Michael's and All Angels Parish Church, Norton, and supported Norton Sunshine Club.



Pensioner Marjorie Ball reads all her 101st birthday cards

Village seeks talks on unsolved crimes

HAGLEY parish councillors are to demand an explanation from local police after it was revealed they failed to catch the crooks responsible for any of the burglaries or car crimes committed in the village last year.

A Freedom of Information request by a local resident revealed 29 burglaries and 30 vehicle crimes were recorded in 2010 in Hagley – but not one was solved. The crime detection rate for the village had slipped since

2009, when six out of 25 burglaries were solved and one vehicle crime was detected from 31 reported.

Bromsgrove district councillor Steve Colella, who is also chairman of the parish council, said: "We will be asking the police to discuss the matter with us."

Evidence

Local resident Peter Rowbottom, of Kidderminster Road South, Hagley, made the Freedom of Information request

to West Mercia Police, asking for figures for the number of crimes solved.

Overall a total of 170 crimes were recorded in 2010, of which just 29 were solved – and, in the case of burglaries and vehicle crime, none was detected.

A West Mercia Police spokesman said today: "Burglaries and vehicle crime are taken very seriously and we do all we can to detect these crimes and bring offenders to justice. Of course we need to have sufficient evidence for this to happen."

Work link to man's death

A RETIRED metal worker who was in contact with asbestos during his job died from an industrial disease, an inquest heard.

Desmond Burley, aged 82, died at his home in Norton Road, Stourbridge on January 4. His cause of death was recorded as a mesothelioma and pneumonia.

The court heard he had worked at Austin Morris, later MG Rover, in 1957 where Mr Burley believed he came into contact with asbestos.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain recorded that Mr Burley had died from an industrial disease.

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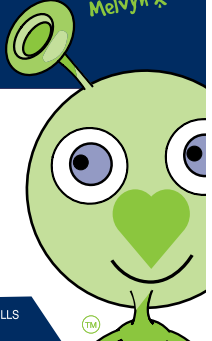
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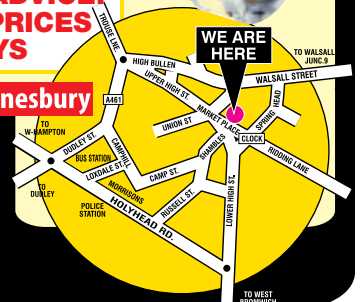


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Conkers children's centre to offer support in village

A NEW children's centre offering support to youngsters and their families in Hagley and the surrounding areas has opened to the public.

The Sure Start-funded Conkers Children's Centre, run by children's charity Action for Children, will offer families with children aged up to five years old a range of services.

They include family support, parenting courses, baby massage and health services as well as training and employment advice.

All support provided by the centre is free of charge. The centre is being built on the same site as Hagley Primary School in Park Road and was officially opened on Tuesday.

Vice-chairman of Worcestershire County Council Councillor William Moore was cutting the ribbon to open the centre.

Action for Children's Sally Wyatt, centre lead at Conkers Children's Centre, said: "We're delighted to officially open the new children's centre which will provide services to children and families in Hagley and the surrounding areas."

"The early years of a child are key in their development, so it is important that they receive the best possible opportunities."

"Conkers Children's Centre will give children the opportunity to play, socialise and be stimulated so they can acquire different skills."

Miss on mark

TRAINEE teacher Amie Houlston is on her marks to run in the London Marathon – but as a warm-up she's been exercising the brains of local people in a quiz.

Amie, aged 21, of Richmond Grove, Wollaston, Stourbridge, is hoping to raise £500 through the quiz which was held at The Bell in Market Street, Stourbridge. She is aiming to coin in a further £1,000 from marathon sponsorship in aid of Phabkids which supports children with special needs.

"I have worked with children with special education needs so this is a cause close to my heart," said Amie.



Amie Houlston – brain exercise before tackling the marathon



Stourport's Fiona Walker, the woman in the famous Athena poster, at Christie's with the legendary calendar photo

Iconic cheeky poster in city art exhibition

A WOMAN who became the nation's most popular pin-up 35 years ago was at the preview of a Birmingham art exhibition dedicated to tennis.

When Oldbury photographer Martin Elliott's picture of his then girlfriend cheekily hitching up her skirt to reveal a buttock during a game of tennis was picked up by poster company Athena in the 1970s, it became one of the most popular posters ever in the UK.

The tennis girl Fiona Walker, who now lives in Worcestershire, was at Christie's in London last week to launch Court on Canvas – an exhibition exploring tennis as a subject in art which will run from May 27 to September 18 at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

The 1976 photograph by former Oldbury Grammar School pupil Martin Elliott, was taken of his girlfriend at the time, 18-year-old student Fiona Butler, from Stourbridge, at Edgbaston Tennis Club. She could not actually play tennis.

The photograph was licensed to

Athena for a calendar for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, and became a cheeky, sexy icon.

Fiona Butler went on to marry multi-millionaire Ian Walker and now lives in Stourport.

Mr Elliott, who got royalties for the popular picture, moved to Cornwall where he died a year ago after a long battle with cancer.

Unique

The first game of lawn tennis was played in 1859 by Major Harry Gem and his friend, Jean Batista Augurio Perera, on a court at the latter's home, at number 8, Ampton Road, Edgbaston. The unique exhibition Court on Canvas: Tennis in Art at the Barber – less than half a mile from the birthplace of the modern game – is the first to explore the subject of tennis in art.

It brings together paintings, drawings and sculptures inspired by the game, including Sir John Lavery's The Tennis Party and works by artists as diverse as LS Lowry, EH Shepherd (of Winnie the Pooh fame) and David Hockney. It will be accompanied by a display of historic tennis equipment, photographs and memorabilia.

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INSIDE: Fitness rolls back the years, and how mums dodge stress when returning to work

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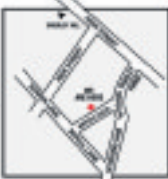
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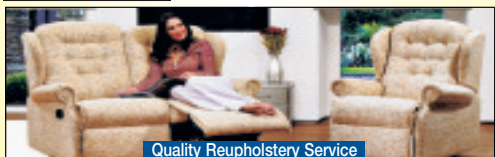
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YOUR Neighbourhood...

Keeping fit can help to peel back the years



Keeping fit can be fun and a good way to make new friends

BY the time most of us reach the age of 50 or 60 we tend to accept the negative effects of ageing as a fact of life that we have little or no control over.

It is true that we can not stop the calendar from marching ahead at what seems to be a faster and faster pace, however, recent studies have shown that we can alter the rate at which our bodies progress through our life cycle.

We now have a better understanding of why some people tend to age much faster than others. There is a large body of scientific evidence that suggests that we can slow down and even reverse the symptoms of aging. In fact many of us can be in better health in our 70s than we were in our 50s.

Recent studies indicate that between the ages of 30-70 many of the symptoms and conditions that were traditionally associated with normal ageing are in fact the result of sedentary lifestyles.

Energetic

Evaluating one's strength, endurance, mobility and cardiovascular-pulmonary performance before and after a one-month period of complete bed rest can be equated to 30 years of aging.

The good news is that regular exercise incorporated into our lifestyle can improve our heart and respiratory function, lower our blood pressure, increase our strength, improve bone density, improve flexibility, quicken our reaction time, reduce body fat, increase muscle mass, and reduce our susceptibility to depression and disease.

Studies have shown that regular exercise by middle aged and

elderly people can set back the clock 20-40 years when compared to those who do little or no exercise.

Test results show that no matter when a person starts to exercise, significant improvement can be achieved. In one study of more than 200 men and women aged 56-87, 'dramatic changes' were observed after just six weeks of exercising three to five times a week. Study participants became as fit and energetic as people 20-30 years younger.

Stronger

Among once-sedentary women in their 50s who participated in an aerobic dance program for six years, fitness improved by 23 per cent and they experienced none of the functional declines typically seen with increasing age.

This group appears to have stopped the clock at an age when functional declines are usually apparent.

Comparing bone loss among women in their 80s. With those women who did seated exercises for 30 minutes, three times a week for three years, bone mineral actually increased by 2.29 per cent, whereas in a similar group of inactive women, bone loss averaged 3.28 per cent.

Various studies have shown that when our bones are taxed from exercise they grow stronger and denser and more resistant to fracture. Aerobic exercise has been shown to enhance blood flow to various parts of the brain as well as to increase the speed with which nerve messages travel through the brain.

In a study among previously sedentary middle aged men who

took part in a four-month exercise and fitness program, a significant improvement was noted in the mental processes controlled by the part of the brain (left hemisphere) responsible for logical reasoning. The men who exercised three times per week, were compared on 10 tests of mental ability to a similar group of men who remained sedentary.

In a study recently published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, older adults who exercised at least three times a week were 38 percent less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, which causes a slow, irreversible decline in brain function.

The theory is that exercise not only increases blood flow and oxygen to the brain, it may also reduce the tell-tale 'plaque' in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Alertness

Aerobic exercise strengthens your heart, helps prevent the build up of cholesterol, improves the functioning of the liver, pancreas and most vital organs.

Aerobic exercise brings additional oxygen and glucose to the brain, both of which are crucial to brain function. Exercise also promotes attention and alertness, both of which are needed to get information into your memory.

Exercise is clearly the best weapon we have to combat disease, to slow down and or reverse the effects of aging. It is no wonder that the experts in the field believe that exercise is the closest thing we have to a Fountain of Youth.

Information from www.befitoverfifty.com



It is possible to combine working with being a mum

Mums can cut the stress when going back to work

EVEN if your employer has kept your job open for you, going back to work after maternity leave or a longer break can often be a bit difficult and uncomfortable.

But there are ways you can make it a happy return. You want to arrive at work cheerful, calm and unflustered, but you'll probably have more to do before you get there than most of your colleagues do in a week!

Cut down on stress by making a plan for each stage of your first morning, from getting yourself ready, to dealing with child care, to getting to work and the important things you need to do when you get there.

If your childcare arrangements are new for you, or

for your child, try to have two days ahead of time when you try out the routine. Use the time while your child is being minded to organise other things, such as travel arrangements and work clothes. If you're still feeding and plan to express breast milk at work, this is a good time to try out any equipment to make sure it works and that you're comfortable with it.

Going back to work can be exhausting, especially if you are still not getting a full night's sleep. Arrange things at home to minimise the pressure, allowing yourself a ready meal or takeaway toward the end of the week when you're tired.

Even though you may feel as though you're being pulled in 100 different directions, it's important to grab yourself some time to relax alone at least once or twice in your week.

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LOCAL FURNITURE STORE GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

When you first step through the door at the Discount Furniture Store you are immediately struck by the vast array of suites and home furniture they have to offer. Having recently expanded their showroom to a third unit, the combined showroom area now covers an impressive 10,000 sq ft.

With over 20 years experience within the furniture retail trade, they pride themselves on the fact that their customers are left alone to browse the showrooms at their own leisure **WITHOUT** sales staff following them around. They have received very positive feedback from customers saying how refreshing it is to walk around a furniture store without the need to keep looking over their shoulder for the dreaded loitering sales staff!

Director/Owner Katie Smith says "We set up The Discount Furniture Store in October 2009 to offer customers great deals on upholstery at first, then customers were asking for beds and dining at the same discounted prices.....so we obliged! We now offer a vast range of beds, from budget to luxury and selected dining ranges, this in addition to always having approximately 100 suites in stock - many for fast delivery. Our aim is to pass as much discount as possible to our customers whilst offering a second to none after sales service should any problems arise with your purchase."



The Discount Furniture Store are very much aware that the current trading conditions make it very challenging for many retailers who are cutting back on their stock purchasing and they are taking advantage of this and have **INCREASED THEIR PURCHASES** to obtain better prices from their suppliers. Containers full of discounted furniture arrive weekly at their large warehouse based in the



Midlands. Their large buying power enables them to buy the right furniture at the right prices and pass **MASSIVE SAVINGS** directly to you, the customer. So if you are looking for a high quality piece of furniture at the lowest possible price, look no further than the Discount Furniture Store.

The extensive showrooms are divided into product areas. The main showroom is aimed towards a fabulous display of suites, where customers are able to have their suite made to measure in a wide range of fabrics and colours. Another showroom is for stock items that are ready for immediate delivery, and another section contains ex-display, slight seconds or end of lines, where customers can pick up many great bargains at a fraction of the normal retail price. Last, but by no means least, is a bedding showroom with over 40 beds on display, with many available for fast delivery.

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- **Offer immediate delivery on many stock items**



So, all in all, if you are looking for that discounted sofa, a new suite or that comfortable bed, call in to The Discount Furniture Store and see for yourself why hundreds are flocking to their store!

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the pulse

Expect fireworks . . .

My songs reveal the real me – Katy

THE popularity of Katy Perry continues its stratospheric rise.

The pop superstar brings her California Dreams tour to Birm-

ingham's LG Arena on Monday for one of seven UK dates.

She has now had three UK Top Ten hits to her name within 12 months in the shape of her smashes California

Gurls, Teenage Dream and Firework.

Combined sales of the three singles are close to 1.4 million in the UK alone.

While her new album Teenage Dream has shot past Platinum status, Katy's success has led her to

become one of the most talked-about new artists of the past two years.

Since exploding onto the scene in 2008 she has sold out her own 50-city world headlining tour.

She has also hosted and performed – twice – at the MTVs European Music Awards where she also won Best New Act in 2008.

As well as several Grammy nominations, Katy won a Brit Award in 2009 for Best International Female.

Since the 2008 release of One of the Boys, the American singer and songwriter has taken a jet-fueled rocket pack to the top, wowing fans with her often whimsical, irresistible pop songs.

Glare

Katy topped charts in more than 25 countries with I Kissed a Girl, Hot N Cold, Thinking Of You and Waking Up in Vegas, and has sold more than 22 million digital tracks worldwide.

The latest single off the album is ET featuring superstar rapper Kanye West.

Married to controversial British comedian and movie star Russell Brand, they have become the hottest celebrity couple.

As much as her life seems to play itself out in the media glare, she says the fans can hear the real Katy in every note and word of her music.

"If you ever want an answer about how I felt about something or what I was going through or what I believe or my convictions or my love," she says.

"You just have to listen to the lyrics."



Katy Perry – brings her tour to Birmingham's LG Arena



TV listings start – page 27

YOUR SIX-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up – page 26

Peter's sell-out phenomenon

AFTER selling out 20 record-breaking nights at the Manchester Arena (beating that of Take That) and with a phenomenal demand for tickets, some sold on internet sites for more than £500, Peter Kay was left with no choice but to tour.

And so The Tour That Doesn't Tour Tour finally reaches the NIA with Peter Kay in action on five consecutive nights at Birmingham NIA from next Thursday.

When tickets went on sale more than 400,000 seats had been sold in three hours. Kay is now officially the biggest and fastest selling live comedy act of all time and will play to 60,000 at the NIA.

Seve Walton, of Birmingham NIA, speaking 18 months ago, said: "The demand for Peter Kay tickets has been nothing but remarkable."

Amazing

"We witnessed unprecedented demand for tickets with over three times as many visitors to our website within the first five minutes of going on sale compared with any previous shows."

The Bolton funnyman quipped: "I couldn't comprehend the demand in Manchester but this is amazing, I'm completely overwhelmed."

"I'm going to give people a crackin' night, mind you saying that I better get my head down and write some jokes."

Kay featured on Comic Relief night with the premier of his music video of the classic I Know Him So Well and featuring him as his alter ego Geraldine McQueen in a duet with Susan Boyle.



Peter Kay – will play to 60,000

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FRIDAY MONDAY TO THURSDAY	16:05	15:50
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	11:30 13:45 16:00 18:10 20:20	14:00 18:20 20:45
MAR'S WEEDS WIGGINS - 3D (PG) FLS	16:05	15:55
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	11:30 13:45 16:00 18:10 20:20	14:00 18:20 20:45
THE EAGLE (12A) FLS	16:05	15:55
FRIDAY MONDAY TO THURSDAY	16:05	15:55
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	11:30 13:45 16:00 18:10 20:20	14:00 18:20 20:45
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the pulse

Marti under spot of gothic horror

SINGER Marti Pellow reveals his dark side in gothic horror musical Jekyll and Hyde, which starts a six day run at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday.

The Broadway hit based on the classic novella by Robert Louis Stevenson, will feature the former Wet Wet Wet pop star as the obsessive scientist whose lust for knowledge unleashes a sadistic alter ego onto the streets of Victorian London.

Written by Frank Wildhorn with book and lyrics by Academy Award winning composer Leslie Bricusse, whose other credits include Scrooge and Doctor Dolittle, the show features the hit song This Is The Moment.

Men in frocks, the Trocks, aka

the pulse

Marti under spot of gothic horror



Marti Pellow as Jekyll and Hyde, inset, as Hyde with Sabrina Carter as Lucy Pictures Simon Fowler

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, continue their technically accomplished ballet spoofs at the Hippodrome with performances tonight (Thursday), tomorrow and twice on Saturday.

Victoria Wood's Dinnerladies, in new production Second Helpings, are at The Grand, Wolverhampton, to Saturday with Andrew Dunn (Tony) and Sue Devaney (Jane) from the TV sitcom.

Wobbly

Those shameless Aussie ladies Bev Killick and Emma Powell will be exposing their wobbly bits to close scrutiny in Busting Out! at Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday night. They will be back in the region at Stoke's Victoria Hall on April 12, Worcester's The Swan on April 20 and Oakengates Theatre

in Telford on April 21. Tonight (Thursday) a trio of Brummie comics - Don Maclean, Malcolm Stent and Dave Sealey - will be taking a trip down memory lane at Dudley Concert Hall.

Modern warfare is explored via the medium of dance in 5 Soldiers by the Rosie Kay Dance Company at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tomorrow night (Fri).

That's the same night that Positive Steps showcases young talent from Birmingham at the city's Crescent Theatre.

Webber is celebrated by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and guest singers at the Symphony Hall tonight (Fri). The Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club, featuring singer Omara Portuondo, brings the music of Cuba to the Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

Mighty

Comedy highlights include: comedy actor turned stand-up Greg Davies at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday; stand-up from Dan Clark, of The Mighty Boosh, at the Wulfrun Hall on Thursday (April 7); Andy Parsons of Mock The Week with his Gruntled show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on April 8; Manchester's Jason Manford plays Dudley Concert Hall on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9.



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Choice



CASUALTY

BBC1, 8.25pm

We've watched in horror and distress as Ruth's previously sound mind descended into chaos. But, thankfully, it seems there could be light at the end of the tunnel when she finds Sally, a troubled young woman with a bad case of paranoia, slumped in the toilet and decides to examine her. What she discovers makes her realise that maybe, she could continue to be a doctor after all. Meanwhile, new medic Dylan Keogh's brazen, know-it-all attitude rubs his colleagues up the wrong way. However, it seems he has a softer heart than he's been letting on – he discovers an old patient's health has deteriorated badly, prompting him to find solace in the bottom of a wine bottle.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 News. Regional News. Weather. 11.45 Football Focus. 12.30 Match of the Day Live. Leeds United v Nottingham Forest (Kick-off 12.45pm). 2.55 Film: Galaxy Quest. (1999) Sci-fi comedy, starring Tim Allen. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 5.30 All New Total Wipeout: The Awards.

6.30 So You Think You Can Dance. The last round of auditions takes place, but judges Louise Redknapp and Sisco Gomez argue over a dancer's distinctive look.

7.30 The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. A man and his mother-in-law take part in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles in which contestants have the opportunity to win £100,000.

8.25 Casualty. Ruth realises she can still be a doctor – despite her bipolar diagnosis – after learning former mentor Sarah Evans has OCD, while Dylan Keogh is threatened with a lawsuit.

9.15 Live at the Apollo. Stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

10.00 BBC News: Weather. 10.20 Match of the Day. Including West Ham United v Manchester United v Manchester United. Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games; Weatherview.

1.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 Coast. (R) 12.15 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.00 Film: The Prince and the Showgirl. (1957) Romantic comedy, with Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe. 2.55 Priceless Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.25 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.25 Flog It! (R) 4.55 Film: Carry On Again, Doctor. (1969) Comedy, starring Sid James.

6.20 Dad's Army. A bomb lands on the bank. (R) 6.50 Welsh Greats. 7.20 The Last Goon Show of All. Comedy, with Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan. (R)

8.00 Edward VII: Prince of Pleasure. Documentary drawing on research to unravel the mystery of a monarch who has been described as a sex addict, an astute political operator and a boorish philistine. (R)

9.00 Goldie's Band: By Royal Appointment. The 12 chosen youngsters develop their performance and composing skills by taking part in intensive masterclasses and workshops with music industry experts.

10.00 The Tudors. Henry is troubled by visions. Last in the series. 10.55 Nurse Jackie. Mrs Akallus offers Eddie his job back. 11.25 ICC Cricket World Cup Highlights. The final at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, India.

12.25 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. (R) 12.55 Film: The Rainbow. (1988) Period drama, starring Sammi Davis and Paul McGann. 2.40 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 Coronation Street. 11.45 This Morning: Saturday. 12.45 Monk. 1.40 ITV News: Weather. 1.45 You've Been Framed! (R) 2.15 Film: Like Mike. (2002) Children's fantasy adventure, starring Bow Wow. 4.05 Film: Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles. (2001) Comedy adventure sequel, starring Paul Hogan. 5.45 Regional Programmes. 5.55 ITV News: Weather.

6.10 New You've Been Framed! 6.40 Harry Hill's TV Burp Compilation. 7.10 Ant & Dec's Push the Button. Last week's winning family returns to take on a new set of challengers, with the teams hoping to hold on to as much of their allocated £100,000 as possible. Last in the series.

8.25 Live Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?: Mother's Day Special. Chris Tarrant hosts as David Walliams and his mother Kathleen take part in a special charity edition with Oly Murs and his mum Vicky, and Patsy Palmer and her son Charley.

9.40 FILM: Wanted. (2008) Premiere. A man joins a secret society of assassins that kills people destined to commit acts of evil. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie.

11.45 ITV News: Weather. 12.00 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. 2.05 Swington. (R) 2.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 Sali Mali. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Film: Superbike. World Championship. (R) 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 T4: Friends. (R) 9.30 T4: Rio: T4 Movie Special. 10.00 T4: Friends. (R) 10.30 T4: Glee. 11.25 T4: Great British Hairdresser. 12.30 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 That Paralympic Show. 1.55 Channel 4 Racing. 3.55 The Secret Supper Club. 4.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 4.55 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. Farmer's son John Beachell hosts the final dinner party in East Yorkshire. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. The role God might play in natural disasters.

7.00 River Cottage Every Day. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall rejuvenates the working-week lunch. (R)

8.00 Seven Ages of Britain. The fifth age of Britain, beginning in 1066. (R)

9.00 FILM: The Transporter 2. (2005) Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham.

10.35 Stand Up for the Week. Satirical comedy show, hosted by Kevin Bridges.

11.25 FILM: Nine to Five. (1980) Comedy, starring Dolly Parton and Jane Fonda. 1.30 Sex in the 80s: Pop Sex. (R) 2.25 Privileged. (R) 3.50 Ugly Betty. (R) 4.35 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.00 Countdown. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Meals in Moments. 10.10 Film: Gear. (R) 10.40 The Gadgets Show. 11.40 Megastructures: Extreme Bridge Demolition. (R) 12.45 Film: Up Periscope. (1959) Adventure, with James Garner. 2.55 Film: The Sea Chase. (1955) Adventure, starring John Wayne. 5.05 Film: Anzio. (1968) Drama, starring Robert Mitchum.

7.20 5 News Weekend. 7.25 NCIS. A blind man unwittingly photographs evidence of a murder, leading Jethro and the team to the corpse of a petty officer who was stabbed with a knife left at the scene. (R)

8.20 CSI: Grissom's Greatest. William Petersen highlights some of Gil Grissom's most heroic moments, beginning as the team struggles to piece together events leading to the murder of a showgirl. (R)

9.15 CSI: NY. The investigators find three bodies when they arrive at the scene of an accident involving a truck full of revelers. Drama, starring Gary Sinise.

10.15 CSI: Miami. The mother of Horatio's son Kyle is involved in a murder. (R)

11.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Two bodies are found buried under tar at a building site. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.50 Meals in Moments. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2 3.50 American Idol 6.45 Film: Back to the Future (1985) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Michael J. Fox. 9.00 Film: Magicians (2007) A conjuring double act who become bitter rivals are forced to bury the hatchet to compete in an international competition. Comedy, starring David Mitchell. 10.55 Celebrity Juice 11.40 Film: Daylight (1996)

ITV3 3.50 Foyle's War 6.00 Inspector Morse 8.00 Rosamund & Thyme 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.05 Murder in Suburbia

ITV4 1.55 Film: The Big Country (1958) 5.15 Film: Dunkirk (1958) 8.00 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors 9.00 Ultimate Force 10.30 Film: First Blood (1982) A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and flees into the wilderness, where he fights the law on his own terms. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.

BBC THREE 7.00 Top Gear 8.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes 10.00 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 10.45 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad!

BBC FOUR 7.00 Nature's Great Events 8.00 Al Murray's German Adventure 9.00 Spiral 10.50 Twenty Twelve 11.20 Women in Love

E4 1.25 Hollyoaks 4.00 Make It or Break It 4.55 Friends 6.00 Glee 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.55 Friends 9.00 Rude Tube 10.00 Film: Predator 2 (1990) A tough cop investigating a series of gruesome murders discovers it is the work of an alien that kills for sport. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton.

FILM4 2.55 Baby's Day Out (1994) 4.50 Batman (1966) 6.55 The Eagle Special 7.05 Turner & Hooch (1989) 9.00 P.I. Love You (2007) 11.25 A History of Violence (2005)

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THE CUBE

ITV1, 7pm

Phillip Schofield is easily the most likeable man on telly. If he's not bringing us the news and celebrity gossip of a morning, he's consoling the latest contestant to be beaten by the large glass cube. Tonight he returns to our screens to present another set of challenges in the now-famous Perspex box to eager contestants, as they battle to win a cool £250,000. In this first instalment, firefighter Hayley and binman Paul are among the first to run the gauntlet. Like the rest of us, they might be quietly confident that they can surpass the speed, agility, balance and memory tasks, but they can count on having a re-think once under the actual spotlight.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Country Tracks. 12.00 The Politics Show. 1.05 EastEnders. 3.00 Bargain Hunt. 3.30 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Points of View. 4.45 Songs of Praise. 5.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Regional Programme. 6.30 The Boat That Guy Built. (R)

7.00 **Countryfile.** A visit to the Yorkshire Wolds, where Julia Bradbury watches one of England's oldest horse races and Matt Baker witnesses seabirds arrive for the start of the breeding season. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** The experts return to the British Museum, where items brought in by members of the public include photos of a young Elvis Presley and a pot that is not as ancient as it seems.

9.00 **Waking the Dead.** Part one of two. The team investigates the death of a terror suspect.

10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

10.25 **Imagine: The Trouble with Tolstoy.** Conclusion. Alan Yentob retraces the author's troubled later years.

11.25 **FILM: The Last Station.** (2009) Premiere. Period drama, starring James McAvoy.

1.10 The Sky at Night; Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: MasterChef. (R) 2.35 Holly City. (R) 3.35 Men of Rock. (R) 4.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 MasterChef. (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP. The Spanish Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). 2.05 Film: Viva Knievel! (1977) Motorcycling adventure, starring Evel Knievel. 3.45 Film: The Gumball Rally. (1976) Car-race comedy, starring Michael Sarrazin. 5.30 The Truth About Lions. (R)

6.30 **Jackie Stewart: The Flying Scot.** Portrait of the former racing driver, winner of three Formula One World Championships, chronicling his early career and subsequent role as an internationally respected businessman. Previously shown on BBC4.

8.00 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond debate which company has made the greatest number of exceptional cars, and Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans is the Star in a Reasonably Priced Car. (R)

9.00 **Louis Theroux: America's Most Hated Family in Crisis.** The reporter pays a return visit to the Westboro Baptist Church.

10.00 **Match of the Day 2.** Manchester City v Sunderland and Fulham v Blackpool.

11.00 **Football League Trophy Final.** Brentford v Carlisle.

11.40 **FILM: Awaydays.** (2009) Premiere. Drama, with Stephen Graham.

12.00 BBC News. 4.35 The Super League Show. 5.05 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 May the Best House Win. (R) 10.25 House Gift. (R) 11.30 This Morning: Sunday. 12.30 Dinner Date. (R) 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.35 Film: Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.05 Torvill and Dean's Dancing on Ice Tour 2010. (R) 4.05 Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.10 **Harry Hill's TV Burp Compilation.** Classics skits and quips from past series. (R)

6.35 **Regional Programmes.** 6.45 **ITV News; Weather.** 7.00 **The Cube.** New series.

A firefighter and a dustman take part in the game show, completing tasks within the confines of a large cube in a bid to win £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

8.00 **Lewis.** New series. A college reunion takes a tragic turn when a guest is found murdered, and Lewis calls in a former colleague to help investigate a possible link to a 10-year-old case.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten; Weather.**

10.15 **FILM: The Bucket List.** (2008) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by working through a list of things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.

12.05 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.50 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Film: D.O.A.: Dead or Alive. (2006) Adventure, with Jaime Pressly. 3.25 ITV

Nightscreen. 5.30 Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freeports on 4. 7.30 Cruncheon. 7.55 T4: The Crush. 8.25 T4: Friends. (R) 8.55 T4: Friends. (R) 9.25 T4: Hollyoaks. 11.55 T4: Glee. (R) 12.55 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 2.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.30 Four in a Bed. (R) 3.55 Four in a Bed. (R) 4.25 Deal or No Deal. 5.30 Time Team.

6.30 **Channel 4 News.** 6.55 **4thought.tv.** The role of God in natural disasters.

7.00 **Come Dine with Me.** A woman with a penchant for risqué conversation takes on a landlady, a fitness fanatic and a member of a Take That tribute band as the dinner party challenge heads to Worcester.

8.00 **Civilization: Is the West History?** Niall Ferguson examines the roots of modern consumerism, and asks whether the global dominance of the West's big brands and major corporations could be coming to an end.

9.00 **Country House Rescue.** A stately home that has been in its owner's family since the 11th century.

10.00 **FILM: The Magdalene Sisters.** (2002) Drama, starring Geraldine McEwan.

12.15 Film: Lost in Translation. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Bill Murray. 2.05 Amelia and Michael. (R) 2.15 Never Did Me Any Harm. (R) 3.15 The Play's the Thing. (R) 4.10 Without a Trace. (R) 4.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowerlotos. (R) 6.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.40 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) 6.50 The Beeps. (R) 7.00 Mio Mao. (R) 7.10 Chiro. (R) 7.15 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 7.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.40 Igam Ogam. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Hana's Helpline. (R) 8.30 Family! (R) 8.40 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Olivia. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.30 Gerald McBoing Boing. (R) 10.00 Nigel Marven's Rhino Adventure. (R) 11.05 Andre Rieu in New York. 12.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.05 Emergency Bikers. (R) 2.05 Film: Prince Charming. (2001) Fairy-tale fantasy, starring Sean Maguire. 3.50 Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo. 5.45 5 News Weekend. 5.50 Film: High School Musical 2: Senior Year. (2008) Premiere. Teen musical sequel, starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens.

8.10 **FILM: Just Married.** (2003) Romantic comedy, with Brittany Murphy, Ashton Kutcher, Christian Kane and David Moscow.

10.00 **FILM: Two Weeks Notice.** (2002) Romantic comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant.

12.00 The Simon Cowell Factor. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 The FBI Files. (R) 4.50 Meals in Moments. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
 4.20 The Only Way Is Essex 5.50 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) 8.00 Kerry Katona – The Next Chapter 9.00 Benidorm 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.45 Film: Batman (1989) Comic-book adventure, with Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

ITV3
 3.45 Pollyanna 5.45 Film: Forever Young (1992) 7.50 An Audience with Michael Buble 9.00 Film: City of Angels (1998) Romantic fantasy, starring Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan and Dennis Franz. 11.15 Jane Eyre

ITV4
 11.00 British Touring Car Championship. The opening round of the season at the Brands Hatch Circuit. 6.00 Film: Brewster's Millions (1985) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Nighthawks (1981) Action adventure, starring Sylvester Stallone. 11.00 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors

BBC THREE
 7.00 The World's Strictest Parents 8.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands 9.00 Police Academy UK 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 White Van Man

BBC FOUR
 9.00 Come Clog Dancing – Treasures of English Folk Dances 8.00 The Eiger: Wall of Death 9.00 Re-Trial by TV: The Rise and Fall of Rough Justice 10.00 The Highest Court in the Land: Justice Makers 11.00 Eyewitness

E4
 3.05 Make It or Break It 4.05 Film: Big Momma's House 2 (2006) 6.00 Friends 7.30 90210 8.25 Friends 10.00 Film: The Hole (2001)

FILM4
 3.10 Genevieve (1953) 4.50 Just My Luck (2006) 6.50 4Films For 6.55 The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen (2003) 9.00 The Sum of All Fears (2002) Thriller, starring Ben Affleck. 11.20 The Breed (2006)

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Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast 9.15 Neighbourhood Blues. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Britain's Got Talent. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Justice. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 The Big Bang Theory. 4.00 The Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Rip Off Britain; BBC News; Weather. 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. 8.30 Sport. (R) 9.00 Have I Got News For You. 9.30 QI. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 John Bishop: Elvis Has Left the Building. 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. 11.30 Draws. 12.00 Film: Donnie Darko. (2001) Fantasy drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal; Weatherview. 1.50 Sign Zone: Michael Rous's Secret. (R) 2.50 The Boat That Rocked. 3.00 The Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.50 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies, 7.00 CBBC, 8.30 CBeebies, 11.35 Moomin Mania, 12.00 Daily Politics, 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah, 1.00 Diagnosis Murder, (R) 1.45 Racing from Aintree. The second day of the Grand National meeting, 4.30 Pointless, 5.15 Escape to the Country, 6.00 Eggheads, 6.30 Great British Menu, 7.00 The Restaurant, 7.30 The 100, 8.30 Gardeners' World, 9.00 Lambing Live, 10.00 Frank Skinner's Opinionated, 10.30 Newsnight, 11.00 The Review Show; Weather, 11.50 Later with Jools Holland, 12.05 Film: Backstage, (2000) 1.00 The 100, 1.25 Bowling hip-hop stars, 2.15 BBC News, 3.50, 7.50, 9.50.

TV14 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News: Weather. 1.55 Regional News: Weather. 2.00 60 Minutes. 2.30 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.00 Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 ITV News: Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Baboos with Bill Bailey. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Regional News: Weather. 9.30 The Bill. 10.00 Regional News: Weather. 10.35 Take Me Out. (R) 11.35 The Cube. (R) 12.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.35 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.20 ITV Nightscreen. 3.50 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Max Bear, **R** 6.25 The Hoobs, **R** 6.50 The Hoobs, **R** 7.15 Freshly Squeezed, **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond, **R** 8.05 Frasier, **R** 8.35 Friends, **R** 9.05 Will & Grace, **US** 9.30 Brothers & Sisters, **US** 9.55 Good Guys, **US** 10.00 The Simpsons, **12.05** Film: Crash Dive, (1943) Romantic wartime drama, starring Tyrone Power and Anne Baxter, **2.05** Cookery School, **3.10** Countdown, **4.45** The 1990s, **5.10** The Simpsons, **6.00** The Simpsons, **R** 6.30 Hollywood, **7.00** Channel 4 News, **7.25** 4thoughtv-tv, **7.30** Unreported World, **8.00** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away, **9.00** Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic, **The** patients, **10.00** Friday Night Dinner, **10.35** Rude Tube: Viral Ads, **R** 11.40 10 O'Clock Line, **R** 12.40 Music on 4: Gold, **R** 12.55 Music on 4: Day, **Ally: All** 1.30 The Musical is Here, **R** 1.45 Frasier, **R** 2.00 Film: John Woo's 2000 Drama starring Denzel Washington, **4.15** Ugly Betty, **R** 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall, **R** 5.25 Countdown

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Great Railway Adventures with Dan Cruikshank. (R) 2.05 The Family Recipe. 2.30 5 News Lunchtime. 3.00 The Big Breakfast. 3.15 5 News. 3.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. 3.15 Film: Devil Wounds. (2003) Adventure, starring Joe Landos. Nicole Linkletter. 4.00 The Good Wife. 4.30 The Contender. Sanford. 5.00 5 News at 5. Weather. 5.30 Newsnight. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear. 8 News at 8. 8.30 5 News at 8.30. 9.00 5 News at 9. 9.30 The Mentalist. 10.00 Law & Order. 10.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 11.55 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.15 SuperCado. 4.05 Motorsport Mundial. 4.30 Film: The Day After Tomorrow. 5.00 5 News at 5. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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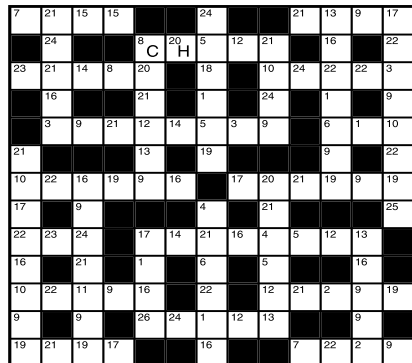
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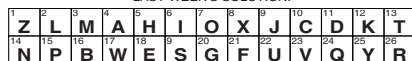
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Sufferers find it painful in the extreme (4)
3. Sort of residence that's desirable, being without tears (4-4)
9. Falls back again on the Royal Artillery (7)
10. Has to provide promises (5)
11. Fail to understand decimals correctly? (4,3,5)
13. Repast, perhaps, comes to a fine end (6)
15. A selfish characteristic, no argument about that (6)
17. But it's not what pyromaniacs suffer from! (7,5)
20. Shoot nothing before the rise, perhaps (5)
21. Some skyscraper turbulence to disturb you (7)
22. Reserve currency keeps one's place perhaps (8)
23. Something afoot when she holds a ring (4)

Down

1. He may warn his customers about overcharging! (8)
2. Mountain range in rural surroundings (5)
4. Cancels part of an order as essentially unjust (6)
5. Complete with food for the road (12)
6. Possibly re-unite a train (7)
7. Point the seat-out (4)
8. Gate-crasher (9-3)
12. It's lovely wandering abroad with the French (8)
14. Disease one itches strongly to have! (7)
16. His aim is to reduce the opposition one by one (6)
18. Guarantee a number will get over a painful sound (5)
19. Grave outcome of the atom bomb (4)

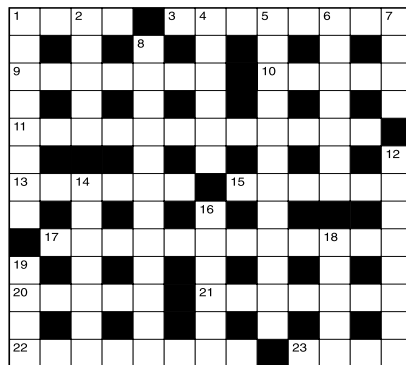
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Compassion (4)
3. Tranquil (8)
9. Be a glutton (7)
10. Cherish (5)
11. Absurd (12)
13. Advent (6)
15. Beset (6)
17. Miraculous (12)
20. Throbbing (5)
21. Sincere (7)
22. Godliness (8)
23. Given new colour (4)

Down

1. Outlook (8)
2. Subject for discussion (5)
4. Property (6)
5. Promoting the same end (12)
6. Luck (7)
7. Ogle (4)
8. Public accusation (12)
12. Solitary (8)
14. Sickly-sentimental (7)
16. Purpose (6)
18. Emitting fumes (5)
19. Work (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Fall out; 7 Wheat; 9 Flour; 10 Sea mist; 12 Sharp answer; 14 Man in charge; 18 Proffer; 19 Moths; 21 Nears; 22 Tornado.
Down: 1 Early; 2 Plough; 3 Cue; 4 Rhymes; 5 Oarsmen; 8 Get-away; 11 Proceed; 13 Hairnet; 15 Infer; 16 Ground; 17 Shade; 20 Cow. QUICK - Across: 6 Compare; 7 Mummy; 9 Rapid; 10 Complex; 12 Retribution; 14 Consequence; 18 Alleges; 19 Under; 21 Irrate; 22 Release. Down: 1 Total; 2 Sprite; 3 Arc; 4 Pulpit; 5 Emperor; 8 Cobbler; 11 Croquet; 13 Forlorn; 15 Sheath; 16 Cancel; 17 Lease; 20 Fee.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

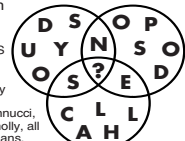
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is N. Iannucci, Milligan, Connolly, all British comedians.



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GOWER ROAD, HALESOWEN



- Extended 4/5 bed semi detached home
- Refitted breakfast kitchen, lounge & dining rm
- Bed 5/playroom/study with en-suite/DWC
- Sun room/utility off kitchen, 4 beds & bathroom
- Off road parking & gardens to front & rear
- GCH & majority double glazing (part UPVC)

£199,950 Ref: D619

GRAYWOOD PARK ROAD, QUINTON



- Superbly presented extended semi det home
- Extended refitted kitchen, d/s & wc
- Lounge & separate dining room
- Refitted bathroom, 3 bedrooms
- Off road parking to front for 2 cars
- Fitted with gas central heating & UPVC dbg

£199,950 Ref: D1031

QUINTON LANE, QUINTON



- 3 bed semi-det home in need of modernisation
- Driveway to front giving off road parking
- Lawned rear garden with southerly aspect
- Downstairs WC, kitchen & side veranda
- Potential to extend subject to planning permissions
- 2 reception rooms - No upward chain

£149,950 Ref: D1039

WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON



- 3 bed terraced home needing modernisation
- Lounge & dining room & kitchen
- 3 generous sized bedrooms & bathroom
- Majority UPVC d/g & night storage heating
- Blockpaved driveway to front
- No upward chain - vacant possession
- Gardens to both front & rear

£94,950 Ref: D1040

WESTCOMBE GROVE, BARTLEY GREEN



- Ground floor maisonette with garage & gardens
- 13ft fitted breakfast kitchen
- Dining rm with art deco style fireplace
- UPVC double glazing & GCH
- Landscaped & private rear garden
- No upward chain - vacant possession
- Garage en-bloc with up & over door

£79,950 Ref: D1041

RIDGACRE ROAD WEST, QUINTON



- Spacious 4 bed home with en-suite & d/s WC
- 28ft lounge diner & study & UPVC sun room
- 35ft fitted breakfast kitchen & sep utility room
- Blockpaved & gated driveway & garage
- Garden with private aspect & large patio
- No upward chain

£379,950 Ref: D1016

SYDNEY ROAD, CRADLEY HEATH



- SPACIOUS & character filled FOUR bed
- REFITTED kitchen & utility room
- 2 reception rooms, DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- REFITTED bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- CELLAR/games room fully refurbished
- Gas central heating & security system fitted

£249,950 Ref: D1022

HIGH HADEN ROAD, HIGH HADEN AREA



- Detached family home with lovely views
- Lounge, sep dining room & downstairs WC
- Breakfast kitchen & separate utility
- Three bedrooms & family bathroom
- Rear gardens, driveway & garage
- Fitted with double glazing & GCH

£189,950 Ref: D835

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN



- Extended well presented 4 bed home
- Lounge & dining room with feature fireplace
- Lounge diner & large UPVC conservatory
- Four bedrooms & family bathroom fitted
- 3 bedrooms & family bathroom
- Blockpaved driveway to front
- UPVC double glazing & GCH fitted

£185,000 Ref: D947

WESTMEAD DRIVE, OLDBURY



- Extended detached home with garage
- Lounge, extended dining kitchen & d/s shower rm
- 3 bedrooms & bathroom with sep WC on 1st floor
- UPVC double glazing, fascias & soffits
- Gas central heating & alarm system
- No upward chain - P/X available

£169,950 Ref: D1029

HIGH STREET, QUINTON



- Unique 3 bed 1880s Victorian home
- 13ft fitted breakfast kitchen
- Lounge overlooking unique courtyard garden
- Dining rm with art deco style fireplace
- Landscaped & private rear garden
- GCH & majority UPVC double glazing

£179,950 offers invited Ref: D974

KENELM COURT, ROMSLEY



- Superb 2 bed detached bungalow
- Benefiting new DBG & GCH boiler
- Refitted kitchen with built in appliances
- Kitchen diner, lounge & downstairs WC
- Lounge/dining rm over looking rear gardens
- Off road parking & enclosed rear garden
- Internal inspection essential to appreciate property

£167,500 Ref: D1013

MONCKTON ROAD, OLDBURY



- Semi detached home with garage
- Lounge & separate dining room
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom & WC
- Paved driveway giving off road parking
- Extensive rear garden
- UPVC DG, GCH & security system

£166,950 Ref: D923

BARSTON ROAD, OLDBURY



- Extended semi detached home
- Much improved & superbly presented throughout
- Lounge/dining rm & extended refitted kitchen
- Three double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
- Off road parking to front
- Fitted with GCH & UPVC double glazing

£155,000 Ref: D1019

LEWIS ROAD, OLDBURY



- Well presented semi detached home
- Lounge/dining room with door to garden
- Fitted kitchen & side veranda
- Refitted bathroom with white suite
- UPVC d/g & UPVC fascias & soffits
- Benefiting GCH (comb boiler)

£135,000 Ref: D1026

PERRY HILL ROAD, OLDBURY



- 2 bedroomed home with garage
- 20ft lounge diner with feature fireplace
- 12ft breakfast kitchen to rear
- Refitted bathroom with white suite
- Lawned gardens to both front & rear
- UPVC double glazing & GCH fitted

£119,950 Ref: D977

TWO GATES, HALESOWEN



- 3 bed well presented semi det home
- Fitted 14ft kitchen with breakfast bar
- Refitted bathroom with sep shower cubicle
- Downstairs WC, utility area & rear lobby
- UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- No upward chain - vacant possession

£114,950 Ref: D1015

MARTLEY CROFT, QUINTON



- Well presented 2 bed mid terraced home
- Benefiting UPVC DBG & GCH
- Kitchen diner, lounge & downstairs WC
- Two bedrooms & bathroom on 1st floor
- Gardens to front & rear
- Vacant possession - P/X available

£79,950 Ref: D1009

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ST PAULS ROAD, SMETHWICK
£275,000

A superb detached 4 bedroom family property with an exceptionally large garden. Situated in a very popular area, within walking distance of local amenities and town centre. The property comprises of gas central heating, recently installed double glazed windows and also benefits from a new extension to the rear of the property. Viewing is highly recommended.

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ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

An unfurnished modern detached house, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

£665 PCM



HALESOWEN, PARK LANE

A large Four bed detached family, briefly comprising of: Three Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Garage and Driveway Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden

£650 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HADEN ROAD

A part furnished or unfurnished large 1930s detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, Driveway for 2 Cars, Front and Rear Gardens

£650 PCM



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£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEECHER STREET

A lovely unfurnished modern semi-detached house, close to local buses, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms both En-Suite Bathrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Large Conservatory, Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£599 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, BELL END

A well presented unfurnished modern end terraced house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Master bedroom with En-Suite, House Bathroom with Shower, Downstairs WC, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage and Driveway Parking, Lovely Rear Garden, Convenient for access into Merry Hill, Near to junction 2

£595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, SURFEIT HILL ROAD

A fully refurbished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Shower Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway and Garage Parking, Rear Garden

£595 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, HACKETT ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached family home in a popular location, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Double Glazing Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Dining Kitchen, Guest WC, Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and Driveway Parking.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, ROUNDHILLS TERRACE

A lovely unfurnished mid terraced house, briefly comprising of: Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking, Gardens

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, CLENT HOUSE

An unfurnished modern first floor apartment, close to Halesowen Town Centre, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Garage, A Must See Property

£525 PCM



OLDUBURY, NEW HENRY STREET

An unfurnished mid terraced house, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Brand New Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and Parking to the rear.

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, WYCHERLEY WAY

A part furnished to suit first floor apartment, on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space.

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

An unfurnished semi detached house, on a popular road, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Brand New Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway.

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, WHITEHALL COURT

An unfurnished ground floor apartment in a sought after location, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Large Living Room, Gas Central Heating Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens and Carport to the Rear.

£450 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, TERRACE STREET

An unfurnished first floor flat offers lovely views, and close to shops, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Gas Central Heating

£450 PCM



OLDUBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

An unfurnished flat above shops, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear

£450 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, NORWOOD ROAD

Unfurnished end terraced house briefly comprising of: Gas central heating, Living room, Fitted kitchen, Downstairs bathroom with shower, Two bedrooms, Rear garden, On road parking

£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, LYDE GREEN

An unfurnished 2nd floor apartment, on a popular estate, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Garage Parking, Communal Gardens

£395 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA GARDENS

A modern top floor apartment, close to Old Hill town centre, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Allocated Parking

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

An unfurnished ground floor apartment, well presented throughout. Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom with Built In Wardrobes, En Block Garage.

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0121 550 7474

DIXONS

Estate Agents

DoingMore...

6 Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen B63 2HJ



Public Notice

We have received an offer of £92,000 on the above property. Any interested party must submit any higher offer to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. Dixons Estate Agents 77 High Street, Halesowen, B63 3BQ.

23 Albert Road, Halesowen B63 4SW



Public Notice

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £95,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

207 Pennercricket Lane, Rowley Regis, B65 0PF



Public Notice

We have received an offer of £92,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Beauty Bank, Cradley Heath



£113,000

NEW

Semi detached property offering two reception rooms, kitchen, down stairs shower room, two bedrooms, dressing room, driveway and rear garden.

Summer Road, Rowley Regis



£100,000

NEW

Two bedroom end terraced house, hallway, kitchen, lounge, first floor bathroom, front driveway and rear garden, double glazed and central heating.

Maple Road, Halesowen



£105,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

A two bedroom terraced property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden and patio area, double glazed and centrally heated.

Oxenton Croft, Halesowen



£177,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

Three bedroom semi detached property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, separate wc, driveway, rear garden and garage.

Greenhill Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

NEW

Three bedroom semi detached property, porch, hallway, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garage, front driveway and rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Woolpack Close, Rowley Regis



£85,000

NEW

A two bedroom end terrace property comprising in bridge of lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden. Double glazing and no upward chain.

Deer Park Gardens, Halesowen



£154,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

Modern three bedroom town house comprising hallway, kitchen, wc, lounge, three bedrooms, en suite, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Sidaway Close, Rowley Regis



£165,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

Four bedroom semi detached property, lounge, dining area, conservatory, kitchen, garage/room, bathroom, central heating and double glazing. Garden and driveway.

Ruskin Avenue, Rowley Regis



£79,950

NEW

A two bedroom end of terrace property briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom and rear garden.

Lyttleton Avenue, Halesowen



£140,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



£100,000

Three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, no upward chain.

Goths Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £110,000

REDUCED

A two bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, double glazing, garage, drive and rear garden. Cul de sac location.

Canterbury Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £55,000

REDUCED

A second floor flat comprising parking, security intercom entrance door, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom.

Woburn Drive, Halesowen



£147,950

A two bedroom semi detached property, lounge, dining area, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garage, front and rear gardens, no upward chain.

Victoria Road, Cradley Heath



£77,475

Four bedroom semi detached property with accommodation comprising entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen area, downstairs bathroom, 1st floor wc, front and rear gardens.

Woodbury Road, Halesowen



£110,000

Offering vacant possession four bedroom mid terrace property, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, double glazing and central heating. Front and rear gardens.

Fallowfield Road, Halesowen



£189,950

Three bedroom semi detached property comprising hallway, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, family bathroom, garage and double glazing.

Fairmile Road, Halesowen



£160,000

An extended semi detached property with three double bedrooms, dining room lounge, kitchen, utility/storeroom, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway

Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen



£85,000

Public Notice 19 Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen B62 9EH We have received an offer £85,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Highfield Crescent, Halesowen



£107,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, driveway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, wc, first floor shower room, double glazing and central heating and rear garden.

Peckover Close, Rowley Regis



£118,000

Three bedroom semi detached house, entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor shower room, garage and driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Cornfield Road, Rowley Regis



£125,000

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, inner passageway, wc, utility room, bathroom, separate wc, rear gardens with garage, double glazed and central heating.



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How to move people in comfort

IN THE RECENT past there has been a plethora of people carriers of all different shapes and sizes, many of them memorable for very little.

The Peugeot 3008 crossover that I tested is memorable. The reason? It is one of the most comfortable cars that I have ever driven.

There are cars which cost three times as much as the 3008 that would struggle to meet the ride quality and comfort that this car possesses.

So how have they managed this little miracle? Starting with the outside, the lines of the body take their cues from the rest of the Peugeot range with the distinctive front grille and make for an efficient shape. The front lights are

By Sharon Walters

embedded into the sides of the wings and add to the overall smooth feel of the bodylines.

At the rear the door opens on the back in a clamshell fashion so you have a useful shelf on which you can lift things before sliding them in to the large boot space. There is a split shelf in the boot so you can put fragile items in the bottom and bulky ones on the top.

On the inside is a well finished leather interior. The seats are extremely comfortable and the front ones are fully adjustable.

The switchgear on the dashboard is reminiscent of the old sports cars with the modern equivalent of toggle switches laid out in a line.

They are easy to use and you don't need to read a full manual before you can operate them with confidence.



By the side of the gear lever is a rotary switch, again laid out very clearly, that lets you engage the myriad of options for traction control and ESP.

The dashboard comes in for particular praise. Not only is it very well laid out, with all the relevant information to hand, it is very easy to read in bright sunlight and has just the right contrast so that it does not interfere with your vision when travelling at night.

The engine is a 1600cc petrol unit which, coupled to a six-speed manual gearbox, (an automatic is an option), is perfectly matched for the size of the car. It provided a great balance of power and well-spaced gears.

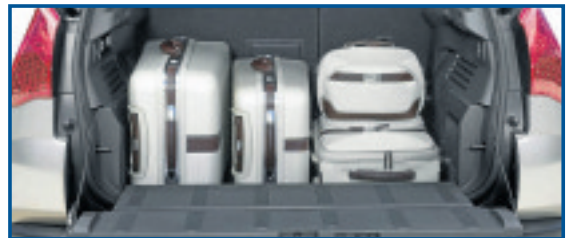
On the open road the steering is light but provides enough feedback so that you can feel exactly what is happening to the road surface.

The body roll is also fairly minimal as the suspension provides a firm, yet never intrusive, ride quality that never changes from motorway driving to country lanes. This results in a drive quality that provides a great balance between being over firm or over soft.

The Peugeot engineers have done a great job. This is the best part of the package and allows



A shelf in the capacious boot makes loading easy. Inset: Techno accessibility



The spacious 3008 holds plenty of luggage and passengers



An efficient shape features the distinctive Peugeot grille



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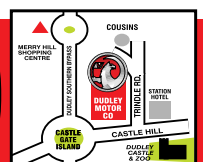


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Hyundai's great way to jump waiting list

HYUNDAI is offering to help buyers on waiting lists for its popular ix35 model.

The compact crossover vehicle has proven to be a popular choice – especially the 2.0-litre diesel variant – not only across Europe, but also worldwide.

According to the Korean firm, its ix35 1.7-litre diesel model is more freely available, allowing Hyundai to offer such cars to its 200 longest waiting customers as an interim solution.

Original

The offer will enable customers to own a new 1.7-litre diesel manual ix35 immediately, and run it until their original ix35 2.0-litre diesel is ready. Customers can then move to the new 2.0-litre car – all for the price of their original order.

In practice, a customer would buy a 1.7-litre diesel ix35 from their dealership before the end of March – at the same time completing any part-exchange they intended.

When the customer's ix35 2.0-litre diesel they ordered is ready, they can part-exchange the 1.7-litre diesel at the price they paid for it, against their new 2.0 diesel – paying only the difference between the price they paid for the 1.7-litre and the price of the new 2.0-litre car as previously agreed with their dealer.

In addition, Hyundai will give the customer £300 to cover costs that may be incurred for arranging



Popular demand – drive Hyundai's ix35 1.7-litre, then upgrade

finance and insurance on two cars instead of one.

Commenting on the initiative, Tony Whitehorn, Hyundai UK's managing director said: "The demand for ix35 and long waiting list demonstrates the popularity of the vehicle."

"But we are very aware of the inconvenience that these delays are causing our customers."

"We are doing all we can to improve the situation and constantly looking at ways to alleviate the wait. Customer satisfaction is our priority and we hope that this offer of an alternative ix35 will be attractive for our longest waiting customers."

Hyundai is also looking at the feasibility of rolling out this offer to other customers.

MotorMarket

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		Sale Price	Why Equiv
53 Reg	ALFA ROMEO 147 TS Lusso. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Full Leather Sport Seats	£3195	£21
02 Reg	BMW 316 SE COMPACT Silver, Climate Control, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3695	£24
54 Reg	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2.0 HDI MPV Marine, Diesel, A/C, CD	£4695	£30
54 Reg	CHRYSLER PT CRUISER 2.2 CRD TOURER, Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 51k	£4195	£28
07 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE, Silver, A/C, CD, 3-door, FSH, 37k	£3995	£26
03 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD	£2695	£17
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI LX ESTATE Blue, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£3995	£26
05 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4695	£30
05 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC, Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£30
07 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA, Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5695	£36
04 Reg	FORD KA 1.3i COLLECTION, Silver, Col coded bumpers, Low tax & insurance, 42k	£2695	£17
06 Reg	FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI LX Bronze, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4195	£28
08 Reg	FORD MONDEO 1.8 TDCI EDGE, Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 68k	£4195	£28
08 Reg	FORD C-MAX 2.0 TDCI ZETEC MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£7695	£43
04 Reg	FORD FUSION 1.4S, Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3695	£24
03 Reg	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.2 SPORT, Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4195	£28
05 Reg	NISSAN MICRA 1.2 URBIS, CD, Low tax & insurance	£3195	£21
54 Reg	NISSAN ALMERO TINO 1.8 S ESTATE Grey, A/C, CD	£2495	£15
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 95 Blue, A/C, CD	£2495	£15
08 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 95 VTI SPORT Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door	£4695	£30
53 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDI Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3195	£21
05 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.4 X-LINE A/C, Alloys, CD, Silver	£3995	£24
04 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.4S, Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 45k	£3695	£24
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDI SE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4695	£30
07 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V CAMPUS SPORT Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 37k	£4195	£28
56 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V EXTREME Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4195	£28
55 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Beige, 2006, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3195	£21
05 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE AUTOMATIC Silver, Auto, A/C, Alloys, CD, 49k	£3695	£24
55 Reg	RENAULT MEGANE 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3995	£26
04 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD	£3195	£21
04 Reg	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV, Red, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 7 Seater, FSH	£4195	£28
56 Reg	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£30
05 Reg	SKODA SUPERB 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, leather sport seats, FSH	£5695	£36
03 Reg	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VVTi Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, leather sport seats	£4195	£28
06 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, half leather sports seats, FSH	£5695	£36
56 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi 16V CLUB, Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£30
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LIFE AUTOMATIC Gold, A/C, CD, FSH, 27k	£5195	£33
07 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi 16V CLUB ESTATE Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5195	£33
55 Reg	VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4i TWINPORT Coupe Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, Convertible	£5695	£36
07 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi EXCLUSIVE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5195	£33
06 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 VVT LIFE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 20k	£5195	£33
55 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 SE TDI Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£5995	£38
53 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.0 S Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Winter Pack, FSH	£4495	£29

All Prices After £300 Minimum Part Exchange Allowance

Finance Example - Cash Price £3995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500
Amount Of Credit £3495, Total Amount Payable £3453.66
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CHEVROLET	TACUMA SX	RED	VX56 OCH	£3,499
FORD	MONDEO GHIA X TDCI	BLACK	KN04 AZF	£4,999
HYUNDAI	GETZ COX 5 DOOR	RED	VN07 FZS	£4,999
TOYOTA	AYGO VVT-1 AUTOMATIC	GREY	GR07 BMV	£5,299
CITROEN	C1 HDI 5 DOOR	BLACK	VT56 FOH	£5,299
PEUGEOT	207 SPORT - 5 DOOR	GREY	VE07 DQY	£5,499
VOLKSWAGEN	FOX - 3 DOOR	BLUE	D856 VWE	£5,499
NISSAN	NOTE S - 5 DOOR	BLUE	VX57 MYG	£5,499
TOYOTA	AVENSIS TS X AUTO	GOLD	FM05 NBZ	£5,499
HYUNDAI	GETZ DIESEL 5-DOOR	SILVER	KP08 ORC	£5,999
VAUXHALL	TIGRA 1.8 SPORT	SILVER	KV65 FZD	£5,999
MERCEDES	C180 COUPE	BLUE	QU02 XML	£6,495
MINI	ONE	WHITE	NY05 UPJ	£6,995
SUZUKI	JIMMY J1X+	RED	VE06 PVV	£6,999
FORD	FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE TDCI	GREY	CP07 DXY	£7,499
SEAT	IBIZA SE 1.4 5-DOOR	GREY	KR09 OGX	£7,499
LANDROVER	FREELANDER AUTO DIESEL	SILVER	VX05 JZG	£8,499
CITROEN	C4 PICASSO VTR+	RED	DUD6 AAK	£8,499
HYUNDAI	COUPE SS / RED LEATHER	BLACK	VFD7 AVU	£8,999
SAAB	9-3 VECTOR CAB	RED	VE06 CPT	£8,999
HYUNDAI	ISO CRDI STYLE	BLACK	VX08 ETY	£9,495
SUZUKI	SX4 Dd 4WD	GREY	VX08 EPC	£9,995
SEAT	LEON 2.0 DIESEL SPORT 140 BHP	GREY	KV09 YYL	£11,999
MERCEDES	E320 CDI SPORT	BLACK	MW05 OSR	£12,495
VOLKSWAGEN	TOURAN SE TDI 7 SEATS	SILVER	DUD9 ULE	£12,999
BMW	320 Ci SE CAB	SILVER	KC56 LZH	£12,999
JAGUAR	X-TYPE 2.2 DIESEL	GREY	FN58 MTX	£13,499

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FINANCE EXAMPLE

FORD FIESTA 1.25 Zetec 5dr (2008 -)

(1)	Cash Price (inc. VAT)	£9,495.00
(2)	Less Initial Deposit - 10%	(2,948.50)
(3)	Balance of cash price/amount of credit and interest charges	£6,546.50
(4)	Less deposit of £1,000.00	(1,000.00)
(5)	Amount of cash credit/amount for payable each Month/Monthly Rental	£149.80
(6)	Second repayment (1/30.00) of the Credit Arrangement Fee and Purchase Fee	(214.90)
(7)	£150.00 (provide with Ford Rental (inc. VAT, if applicable)	(2,823.50)
(8)	Total Charge for Credit (inc. + (4) + (5) + (6) + (7))	(3,113.90)
(9)	Balance Payable (inc. + (8))	(1,434.60)
(10)	Total Amount Payable (inc. + (9))	£11,811.50

Representative **APR 11.8%**

The balance shown at (9) above is payable by:

PC Monthly Rental

£156.78

£156.78 x 12 = £1,881.36

£1,881.36 + £1,434.60 = £3,315.96

Total £3,315.96

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All-wheel drive Subaru makes light of wet road

The Subaru Impreza – impressed test drivers in slippery road tests

SUBARU'S all-wheel drive Impreza is the hatchback to be in when bad weather strikes, according to handling tests carried out recently by MSN Cars.

The popular automotive website took four rival hatchbacks to the Wet Grip facility at Rockingham Raceway, Northamptonshire, to establish which was the safest to own and drive on slippery and hazardous roads.

The Impreza's rivals in this slippery skid-pan shoot-out were the BMW 1 Series, Honda Civic and Volkswagen Golf.

All four were priced under £18,000, but they offered the full range of drivetrain layouts: the BMW was rear-wheel drive, the Honda and Golf were driven by the front wheels, and the Impreza, as with all production Subarus, boasted all-wheel drive.

Three separate tests were undertaken at the saturated, and very slippery, Wet Grip facility: Simulated skid recovery from

30mph, wet slalom and standing start on a polished surface.

In each of the disciplines the Impreza performed admirably, comfortably recovering the simulated skid and dispatching the slalom course with ease.

The standing start test, in particular, highlighted the obvious benefits of all-wheel drive, with the Impreza completing the course three seconds faster than the front-drive pairing of the Golf and Civic and a full six seconds ahead of the rear-drive BMW, despite being one of the least powerful vehicles on test.

Blizzard

MSN Cars said of the Impreza: "This is a car you could drive through the middle of a blizzard and emerge out the other side."

And it doesn't even have fancy traction or stability control like the other cars here, so it

relies on the mechanical grip inherent with the AWD system.

"It held on to the road well and the all-wheel drive did the job from an icy standing start, as well as the other test situations. Best performer on the day on the skid pan."

Marketing director of Subaru UK, Kenyon Neads, added: "All-wheel drive is fundamental to our car-making philosophy. "The test carried out by MSN Cars proves that when icy, slippery conditions take over – as they have done on numerous occasions in recent times – there is simply no substitute for the superior mechanical grip offered by our symmetrical all-wheel drive system."

Subaru's all-wheel-drive range starts at £17,345 for the entry level Impreza 1.5 RC, and rises to £35,795 for the top-of-the-range 3.6R Outback Cross-over.

For more information visit www.subaru.co.uk

Ten ways to be frugal with fuel as prices rise

ROAD SAFETY and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is urging drivers to be as fuel efficient as possible – and has come up with tips to make your tank last longer.

David Williams MBE, the chief executive officer of GEM, says: "We have never seen such a significant increase in fuel prices, largely due to the VAT increase as well as high global oil prices."

"There are, however, some steps that the everyday motorist can be taking to be as fuel efficient as possible and ensure they are getting every penny's worth."

"Many of the tips are quite simple, yet many people do not realise just how much of an impact they could have."

1. Get it checked

Modern car engines are complicated pieces of machinery which rely on a vast array of electronic components that can easily fail.

To ensure maximum efficiency, have your car serviced regularly by a recognised garage. The money spent can make you savings in the long term.

2. Tread carefully

Ensure tyres are always inflated to the correct pressure. Tyres which are under-inflated by even a small amount increase fuel consumption noticeably.

Check them at least once a month and try to check pressures when the tyres are warm after a short drive as "cold" tyres give a false low pressure reading.

3. Lose weight

Never carry unnecessary weight in the car as it will reduce efficiency. Golf clubs, pushchairs, toolboxes and so on can weigh down a car so remove them when they are not needed.

Also remove roof-racks, cycle-racks and storage boxes when they are not being used as they affect the aerodynamics of the car.



High prices at the pumps are punishing car drivers

4. Hot and cold

Do not waste fuel by warming the car before a journey. However a warm engine is more efficient than a cold one so try to carry out all your trips in succession so the engine does not get cold between stops.

5. Plan ahead

Take time to plan your journeys to avoid congestion, ensure you take the best route and know exactly where you are going. An unplanned detour because you are lost can be very costly in wasted fuel.

6. Slow down

Reducing your average speed by just a few miles per hour can have a noticeable effect on fuel consumption and your wallet.

Driving at 70mph uses nine per cent more fuel than driving at 60mph. Cruising at 80mph (a recent suggestion to raise the motorway limit) uses a staggering 25 per cent more fuel than driving at 70mph.

7. Nice and easy does it

Most drivers could save a significant amount of fuel by simply

reading the road further ahead and slowing earlier for traffic lights and other hazards thus avoiding unnecessary acceleration, heavy braking then acceleration while pulling away again.

Carrying out these manoeuvres in a steady, more controlled way will not add to your journey time but will cut your fuel bill.

8. Keep your cool

Most newer cars are fitted with air conditioning. If the extra cooling is not needed, switch the air conditioning off.

However, the system must not be turned off for long periods as harmful bacteria can build up and it could prove costly to repair.

9. Exploring for fuel

Prices can vary greatly. However, if it requires an extra journey to find where to save a few pence per litre there may not be an overall saving.

10. A bit drastic

If you are able to avoid one journey each week by walking or cycling, the saving at the end of the year could be substantial.

If you are changing your car think about downsizing.

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Estate, 2002, 78k miles, Zetec engine, metallic silver, ew, e/m, c/l, air bags, pas, MoT, 2 lady owners, excellent throughout. £2,195. 010 07886 860380.

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52k, EW, EM, AC, CD, silver, long tax, MoT, economical, good condition. £3,250. 07770 895080.

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07740 633524 or 01384 837193.

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Quality

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sport

Hampton goal not enough

Girls League

Withymoor 3 Halas Hawks 1
HALAS Hawks under-10s experienced only their second defeat of the season, in the cup semi-final.

They went ahead through Kirsty Hampton, but Withymoor hit back.

Halas Hawks 1 Gornal 1

The under-13s took the lead against Gornal in this Merit Shield game only to concede an equaliser.

Their goal came after the Gornal defence failed to clear a corner and Sophie Pritchard took advantage.

Halas Hawks 2 Wordsley Wasps 0

The under-15s produced a very assured performance in victory. They won the game in a two-minute first-half spell with a fine goal from Chloe Middlestone and one from player of the match Hannah Williams.

Boys League

Wordsley N 0 Halas Hawks East 0

Both goalkeepers were kept busy in a skilful and pacy under-nines game which surprisingly ended scoreless.

Josh Smith in the Halas goal made some excellent stops.

Halas Hawks E 0 Kewford Eagles W 0

The under-10s East played well for no reward, kept at bay by a spirited Kewford side.

Halas Hawks West 2 Withymoor N 0

Two second-half goals from Jack Bissell helped the under-10s West win.

Halas Hawks 4 Newbridge 3

Matthew Evans bagged a hat-trick for the under-11s and Jonty Round was also on the scoresheet as Halas won by the odd goal in seven.

Sedgley WL 0 Halas Hawks West 2

The under-12s West recorded their second victory of the season.

Cameron Milne scored in each half to give the visitors the spoils.

Halas Hawks Dynamos 6 Perton J 0

The under-12s Dynamos maintained their pursuit of the Division One runners-up spot. Chris Priest scored twice and Dalmar Morrison, Jack Blunt, Lewis Sidebottom and Callum Priest were also on the mark.

Halas Hawks North 1 Withymoor 1

The under-14s North went ahead with a goal of the season contender from Kieran Parkes but could not hang on.

Halas Hawks East 4 Kewford 1

Halas under-14s East were not at their best but produced several fine moments and remain second in the league with three games to play. Goals arrived from Joe Priest (2), Josh March, and Dan Willetts.

Sports find Casuals too efficient to handle

SUPERB Wolverhampton Casuals distanced themselves from the West Midlands Premier Division relegation zone with an excellent victory.

Casuals threatened from the start as Mike Hancox and Joe Pickering wasted golden chances. Sports

W'hampton Casuals 2 Dudley Sports 1

had to thank keeper Samuel Pearson in the 15th minute with a fine save to stop Hancox.

The visitors first shot on goal came in the 18th minute when Sam Wilkinson's 25 yard effort brought

the best out of Casuals' keeper Steve Wibberley, who pushed the ball over the bar.

Casuals dominated the remainder of the half as Luke Tudor had a goal ruled off-side and Hancox shoot- ing from six yards straight at Pearson. At the start of

the second half Pickering had a goal ruled off-side.

Dudley looked dangerous as Kevin Vogeli fired over from 12 yards and then minutes later Wibberley used his legs to block Vogeli's goal-bound shot.

The hosts finally broke the deadlock in the 70th

minute when Hancox headed in a Tom Maydew's cross. Mark Habbershaw made it 2-0, drilling in a free kick.

Matt Weyman grabbed a consolation goal for Sports in added time from the penalty spot after Wilkinson had been tripped.



Lock forward Ed Parry uses his full height to score DK's 6th try while, right, full back Simon Fletcher touches down DK's seventh and final try



UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS!

Dudley Kingswinford 39 Old Halesonians 0

OLD HALESONIANS were the victims as Dudley Kingswinford claimed the Midlands One West league title.

Sutton Coldfield's shock defeat at Bournville meant DK claimed the crown with two games to spare, in which they will attempt to complete a magnificent perfect season of 26 wins from 26.

Local rivals Halesonians provided little resistance to rampant DK, who notched up seven tries.

They should have opened the scoring in the 12th minute following a long searching kick from Simon Fletcher, but Ed Parry was just unable to hold the pass in front of the line.

Eight minutes later came the game's opening try when the pack quickly spread the ball to Jak Davis, who flew in for an unconverted score.

Excellent

It should have been the first of many, with DK constantly breaking the Halesonians line only to see their final pass go astray.

The pressure finally told on 39 minutes when Stefan Shillingford's astute chip over the cover saw James Jefferson cross the line for 10-0.

In first-half stoppage time the scoreline looked far healthier, with Tom Weaver's dash through two defenders earning an excellent individual try, converted by Gareth Bown.

Despite being down to 14 men with Jon Tideswell sin-binned, DK extended their lead after the break through captain Pete Knight, who took a magical pass from Bown for the bonus-point fourth try.

They then put the result beyond any doubt when



Tui Asi-Pito is just too late to stop Old Halesonians' scrum-half and skipper Chris Wagstaff passing

Tui Asi-Pito drove over following a lineout deep in the Old Halesonians 22. A tempestuous half saw Ollie Shakespeare receive a red card for striking an opponent, while Old Hales scrum-half Chris Wagstaff was sin-binned for slowing the ball.

Parry added a sixth DK try after 74 minutes, breaking from a rolling maul to increase the lead to 34-0. James Jefferson should have scored two minutes later but dropped the ball over the line, however there was still time for a seventh try from Fletcher following a quick break.

Old Halesonians take on DK again on Saturday when the teams contest a North Midlands Cup quarter final at Wassell Grove (3pm).



DK skipper Pete Knight about to offload the ball to fellow flanker Jon Tideswell

Biggest loss this term for sad Stour

Stourbridge 1 Hemel Hempstead T 5
STOURBRIDGE suffered their biggest defeat of the season and their heaviest home league loss since October 2008.

Ironically that match saw Hemel Hempstead win 6-1 at the War Memorial Athletic Ground.

On Tuesday night a second-half hat-trick from striker Dennis Fenemore allied to a brace of goals from strike partner Marvin Williams sunk the Glassboys who had actually made most of the running for the first hour.

There was certainly little indication of what was to follow for much of the first period as Stourbridge held the upper hand until later in the half. Visiting keeper Mike McEntegart almost gifted Gary Hackett's men an early goal when he made a meal of a wayward low shot from Sam Rock, diving needlessly and spilling the ball. However, from a tight angle Ryan Rowe was unable to find the net.

Denied

Stourbridge might have gone ahead in the 31st minute but Linden Dovey was twice denied.

Three minutes later Rowe seized on a mistake by Danny May before laying the ball across to Aaron Drake on the right-hand side of the area, but his shot was parried by McEntegart who later touched a Ben Billingham drive round the post.

Home stopper Lewis Solly had barely been troubled, but a minute before the break, Hemel struck with their first shot on target. Marvin Williams cut inside past Paul Lloyd on the left before firing in a low shot that bobbed past a helpless Solly.

Yet Stourbridge equalised in the 54th minute. Leon Broadhurst delivered a cross from the left and Rowe set up Drake to lash a shot across the keeper. The Glassboys then fell to two sucker punches in the space of five minutes. Just past the hour Williams squared the ball to Fenemore to shoot low past Solly and a few minutes later Williams broke to lob Solly for the third.

The hosts were now flagging and two stoppage time goals from Fenemore gave the scoreline an unflattering look.

Mauled Yeltz dumped back to bottom

Halesowen Town 0 Truro City 3

HALESOWEN were sent back to the foot of the table by title-chasing Truro City who left The Grove with an easy three points.

The Yeltz welcomed back Anthony Bruce and Michael McGrath but never looked like gaining revenge for a 6-0 reverse in Cornwall earlier this season, writes David Johnson.

Home goalkeeper Louis Connor kept out a third minute shot from Marcus Martin before making a good save from Dan Smith's drive.

After a tentative start on a bone dry playing surface Halesowen started to compete well, with Bruce's cross from

the left just evading centre forward Mark Smith. Rory Curtis then advanced down the right but saw his 23rd minute shot gathered by Truro goalkeeper Martin Rice.

The visitors had the edge on quality and took a 31st minute lead when Les Afful, the smallest player on the pitch, converted a simple free header from Scott Walker's right-wing corner.

The Yeltz enjoyed a good spell late in the first half and Gareth Davies planted a lob over the bar before Keenan Meakin-Richards saw a shot deflect agonisingly wide of the far post. Three successive corners tested the White Tigers' defence, with former

Fulham and Leicester City striker Barry Hayles called into action to clear a Peter Folkes header off the line.

In the second half the White Tigers doubled their lead when veteran Andrew stole a march on the home defence to slot home a great finish.

A third goal came in the 73rd minute when Hayles switched play with a clever reverse pass for full-back Barry McConnell to slide home from the right.

The final few minutes were generally flat although the Yeltz went close when Bruce glanced a header wide from close range.

Lone goal is enough to take spoils

Tivdale 1 AFC Wulfrunians 0

TIVDALE took an enormous step towards winning the West Midlands Regional League Premier Division title with a well deserved 1-0 victory over nearest rivals AFC Wulfrunians.

The home sided started brightly and built up pressure on the visitors defence and were unlucky not to take the lead in the 12th minute when Lee Chilton's excellent 15-yard shot hammered into the frame of the goal.

Two minutes later came the deciding moment of the game when Tivdale were awarded a penalty after striker Brett Clarke was brought down from behind as he was about to shoot. AFC

Wulfrunians protested so strongly the referee book three of their players.

Tivdale top scorer Chris Russell calmly despatched the ball forward turned out to be the winning goal.

The remainder of the half saw the home team on top and little was seen of a visiting attack that had mustered 17 goals in their past four matches.

Five minutes into the second half Tivdale were reduced to 10 men when the hard-working Adam Hill was given a straight red card following a tackle on Chip Southern.

Wulfs' tactic of getting the ball into the Tivdale penalty area to their tall forwards to test a patched-up defence

that lost the pivotal Joel Kettle, who failed a pre-match fitness test, did not work and the league's top scorers did not get a single effort on target.

Tivdale can thank two outstanding performances for their rise to within a point of the leaders with three games in hand. Striker Lee Chilton, who ran the visitors defence ragged, and man of the match Mark Turton, who only played at the last minute, stood out.

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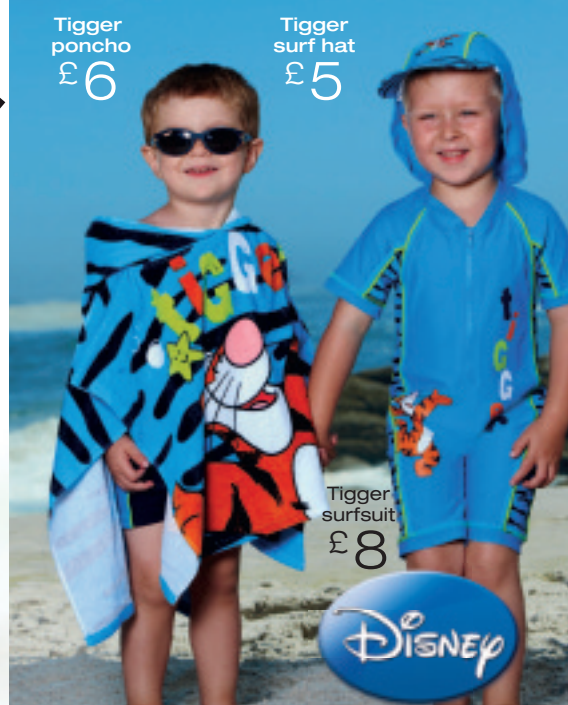


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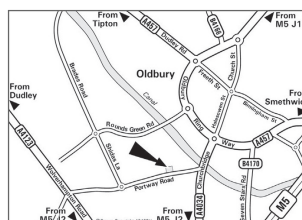
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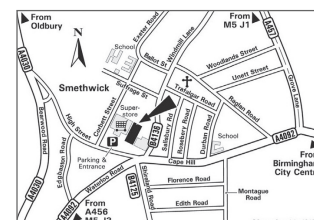
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